[COVER]

Property of the Estate of

A. Graham Brown.

[Illustration of a British Bullfinch]

[caption]

J. Gould & H.C. Richter, del et lith. *Prints by courtesy of London Library*

BRITISH BULLFINCH – Pyrrhula p. nesa.

Few birds can compare with the cock bullfinch for beauty of colouring, but hi is more frequently heard than seen. His presence is made known by his clear, plaintive "peep," and is not always welcome because of his habit of feeding on fruit buds, and systematically damaging any crops in which he makes his home. He makes slight amends by eating the seeds of troublesome weeds. Bullfinches are uniquely devoted, and throughout the year may be seen in each other's company.

[/caption]

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

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27.11.51 Tuesday We set off from the Bellfield
(60) Gr. at 9.30, collected our lunch and went up
(530) D. the Mt Victory Rd as far as a turn off
(84) T to the left with the sign post "Moora
Moora Reservoir." We took this which
turned out to be a very steep and
narrow road leading down below Mt
Victory into the Victorian Valley. On the
way down we saw a SPOTTED PARDALOTE
and PIED CURRAWONG. We crossed a
ford over a small creek and stopped
for a look round, mainly at the plants
but we saw a BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE,
After we had descended the road was
flat in the valley for many ~~while~~ miles
and we cruised slowly along. We put
up many COMMON BRONZEWINGS and to
my utter surprise a PHEASANT crossed,
the road. It was not the English
pheasant but with upper parts black
and white. We got only a brief
glimpse of it.
There were many red-gum

[27.11.51] swamps and I poked round a few to see WOOD DUCK and BLACK DUCK. There were many mobs of kangaroos, but we were disappointed to see no Emus which are said to be common and for which the forest, broken by heathland and with very little undergrowth, was ideal.

We came to where the road crossed a canal which we followed up stream for half-a-mile in a patch of burnt scrub with bracken till we came to the reservoir. This still had many trees ~~still~~ growing in it with the margins covered with Leptospermum. The only new bird on it was the MUSK DUCK and in the stringy-barks along its margins were STRIATED THORNBILLS.

We went on a little way to where we had lunch. The forest was here more open in character, bordering large areas of Leptospermum on our right along the banks of the Glenelg (which we never actually saw). The

[27.11.51] open forest produced birds typical of it – WHITE-BROWED BABBLER, [BROWN TREE-CREEPER] with nest. COLLARED SPARROWHWAK and WHITE-WINGED TRILLER. The roads we were on were made by the Forests COMMISSION and were not tourist's roads as we had thought. Our map was entirely useless and we kept on going south and bearing to the right in an effort to get out of the valley by a gap near the Chimneys. We saw at this (southern) end of the valley a PALLID CUCKOO. We came to a place on the road where a tree had fallen across and we had to turn back and take the previous fork to the left. That road would however, we think, taken us to the Chimney's Gap.

The road deteriorated and took a course bearing to the east and was obviously heading for the Mirranatwa Gap. Suddenly fences,

[27.11.51] cleared land, and a farm turned up. We asked our way from an old Danish woman who lived there but didn't know the neighbourhood! We did get more information from a woman who was returning her children from school. It was very fine country west of the gap and there we saw BUFF-TAILED THORNBILLS and a WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE soaring high over the mountains.

Over the gap on the Dunkeld Rd to Halls Gap and home. It was a most interesting day over wonderful country for birds. I am making a small sketch map of where we went

[Hand drawn map]

28.11.51 Wednesday. We left the hotel at
(62) GR. 9.30 am and, collecting the lunch, went off
(35) D. on the Mt. Victory Rd and went to the
(86) T. base of the Mt. Rosea track. The weather
was cool with sun and clouds. We
started up at 10.20, paused at the base
of the "staircase" for lemonade at 11.0 and
set off again at 11.20, reaching the
summit at 11.55 where we had
lunch.

There is a superb view from
there and I took a complete panorama
with the red filter on my camera. The
birds most common on the top were
the [EASTERN SPINEBILL] and [WHITE-BROWED
SCRUB WREN. We saw directly below
us, on the eastern side, a forestry
track which led back to the road
where the car was. We wanted
to take it but could find no
easy way down and Joan was
not suitably dressed for a scramble.
So we came back by the route we

[28.11.51] had come by seeing a SCARLET ROBIN
on the way, and got to the car at 2.15
We were in tow minds whether
to take the car into Horsham, or for
Joan to sit where she was while I
poked about for birds. So we tossed for it
Heads for Horsham, Tails for sitting where we
were. It came up heads so we made it
the best of three and it came up heads
again. So Joan sat while I went off.
I went down Delley's Dell, a thick
ferny path by a stream and came back
through the scrub seeing a Mountain Thrush
on my way. We had tea at Hall's
Gap and then walked up Stone Creek along
as far as Wonderland, scrambling on the
"Elephant's Hide", where there was no path
We got back to the Hotel at 6.0 pm.
29.11.51 Thursday. I was up early and out
64. GR of the hotel at 6.15. I walked up the
38. D. mountain a bit behind the hotel, turned
88. T. off to the right and came back through
the open forest and bracken to the road

[29.11.51] The YELLOW-TUFTED HONEYEATER was the only new bird for the walk but I saw 25 birds before breakfast including the local honeyeaters but the Crescent.

We left the hotel at 9.30, collected our lunch and set off tor Wonderland. We visited Pansy Falls and back to the rotunda near where we had morning tea, watched by a very tame Grey Currawong. We walked down Stoney Crk, to the road and back via Splitters Falls. We collected our haversack and set off up the Canyon to the top where we had lunch. Then on as far as the top of Silent St, when a rustling on my left drew my attention to a large snake disappearing under a rock. The way was only a few feet wide with the walls rising many feet above us. Joan went rapidly backwards and I sidled past the rock. We made our way back to the car, watching every rock on our way.

[29.11.51] We drove over the Mt Victory Road to Lake
Wartook where Joan napped in the car
from 2:45-3:45 while I went into
ti-tree swamp and around the edge
of the reservoir. I saw a SWAMP-
HARRIER over the reeds.
We drove to McKenzie Falls for
tea at 4:30 and were home again
very tired at 5:15.

30.11.51. Friday we packed up our things
(66) GR. and went off after breakfast to Hall's
(68) D. Gap where we bought some honey, collected
(102) T. our lunch, bought some Thriptomene
plants. MUSK LORIKEETS were flying
over the Camping ground and I found
also there, the nest and young of the
Red Wattle-bird
We went over the Mt Victory
Rd to Mt Victory Lookout and walked
along the ridge to Reid's Lookout where
we had a chat to the forester and
saw spread out below us the Victorian
Valley in which we tried to follow

[30.11.51] our track 3 days ago. We returned to the car by the same route. It was very hot and Joan walked with her skirt at the back pulled up over her to shade her head. She was a fine sight to follow!

We went on to Zumsteins where we had lunch by the river and left the Grampians on the Horsham Rd. with a total of 66 birds for the area.

By the road were a lot of Ravens which had been shot and I checked up on their double feathers for identification. With them also was a BARN OWL. We had tea and a milk shake in Horsham. Joan did a little shopping and we cruised round looking at the town before setting off south on the Henty Highway.

We went through miles of very open forest and cultivation & grazing where we saw a flock

[30.11.51] of WHITE COCKATOOS. We turned eastwards
at Cavendish and on the plains saw
the BROWN SONG-LARK and WHITE-FRONTED CH[AT]
In the streets of Dunkeld were PURPLE-
CROWNED LORIKEETS and the plains
beyond were GALAHS and CORELLAS,. Through
Glen Thompson to Lake Bolac, I was getting
near my 100 birds for the trip and
it was beginning to get dark.

Then on our left was a large
lake covered in birds. I turned down
towards it and saw COOT, HOARY-HEADED
GREBE, WHITE-HEADED STILT, PINK EARED DUCK,
and BLUE-BILLED DUCK. Made it with
one to spare! After Streatham we
saw a WHITE EGRET. I am all against
the 'bird-lister' but when you do get near
the country it does catch you.

Home in the dark through
Skipton, Lismore, Cressy and so to
Colac at 9.10 pm. It was a really
wonderful holiday for Joan and I with
birds <u>not</u> coming first.

LIST OF GRAMPIAN BIRDS 24 – 30.11.51

BRONZEWING	TREE MARTIN DUSKY	WOOD-SWALLOW
WOOD DUCK	SWALLOW	W-THR. TREECREEPER
BLACK DUCK	GREY FANTAIL	BROWN TREECREEPER
MUSK DUCK	WILLIE WAG-TAIL	SPOTTED PARDALOTE
LITTLE GREBE	SATIN FLYCATCHER	WH-NAPED HONEYEATER
S-W. PLOVER	SCARLET ROBIN	CRESCENT HONEYEATER
W-F. HERON	FLAME ROBIN	YELLOW-W. HONEYEATER
WH-NECKED HERON	RUFOUS WHISTLER	YELLOW-F. HONEYEATER
WEDGE-T. EAGLE	GOLDEN WHISTLER	YELLOW-T. HONEYEATER
SWAMP HARRIER	GREY THRUSH	WH-EARED HONEYEATER
C. SPARROW-HAWK	MAGPIE-LARK	EASTERN SPINEBILL
MUSK LORIKEET	B-F. CUCKOO-SHRIKE	RED WATTLE-BIRD
GANG-GANG	YELLOW ROBIN	RED-BROWED FINCH
Y-T. BL. COCKATOO	W. W. TRILLER	GREY CURRAWONG
EASTERN ROSELLA	MOUNTAIN THRUSH	PIED CURRAWONG
CRIMSON ROSELLA	BLUE WREN	W. W. CHOGH
BROWN HAWK	S. EMU-WREN	RAVEN
KOOKABURRA	BROWN THORNBILL	W. B. MAGPIE
PALLID CUCKOO	STR. THORNBILL	GOLDFINCH
F-TAILED CUCKOO	BUFF-T. THORNBILL	SPARROW
G. BR.-CUCKOO	WH. BR. BABBLER	STARLING
H. BR.-CUCKOO	WH. BR. SCRUB-WREN	PHEASANT

LIST OF GRAMPIAN BIRDS – SEPT 1951

SPUR – WINGER PLOVER }

BANDED PLOVER } PLAINS [three birds bracketed]

MOUNTAIN DUCK }

LEADEN FLYCATCHER (?SATIN)

WHITE-THROATED WARBLER

WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER

EASTERN SPINEBILL

[photo]

B xv i Callitris seeds eaten

by Gang-Gangs – Grampians Nov '51

[photo]

H. XII i

Wonderland Peak from Bellfield Peak – Grampians 26.11.51

[photo] HVii 2

Moora Moora Reservoir – Grampians 27.11.51

[photo] H VII 3.

Lake Wartook – Grampians 29.11.51

[photo] Hv VII 4.

Melaleuca Swamp, L. Wartook – Grampians 29.11.51

January 13th 1952. At 11.0am. Joan and I
(34) D. with the Michael & Jonathon and a caravan
behind set out westwards on the Prince's Highway
(34) T. for a week's holiday. The caravan is a Hunter
Minor which I collected from Melbourne the
day before. The caravan is ingeniously
fitted out with most mod. cons. and two berths
but as it was our first attempt with a
caravan we were a little doubtful of the
outcome.

We went on the Prince's
Highway as far as Stoneyford – MAGPIE, RAVEN,
MAGPIE-LARK, SPARROW, STARLINGS – and turned left,
on the Cobden Rd. We arrived there at
midday and had lunch overlooking the river
which at that spot was afloat with water
plants and flanked with reeds and trees –
DUSKY MOORHEN, LITTLE PIED CORMORANT and LITTLE
BLACK CORMORANT. A BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE
was seen in the streets. After lunch, at 1.0
pm., we all went for a swim in the baths
and were greatly refreshed for it was hot.

We set off at 2.0pm, the

[January 13th 1952] the boys lying down, but not sleeping, in the caravan. We then came across the GREENFINCH, BLACKBIRD, KESTREL, SWAMP-HARRIER, NOISY MINER, GREY FANTAIL, WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER, PIPIT SCARLET ROBIN,- the last five being in the Heytesbury Forest. We went through Timboon to Port Campbell and as we approached the coast, we saw a WHITE-FRONTED CHAT. We passed straight on to the Ocean Rd and found a spot to camp a mile or two to the west, well tucked away in the trees.

We unhitched the Caravan, and after considerable difficulty got it into position and I put the tent-fly up beside it, slung from the trees. We had afternoon tea and then took the boys into Port Campbell for an hour on the beach. The sky was closing over and a breeze made things chilly SILVER GULLS and SWALLOWS flew over the harbour. At 5.30 we went into a cafe where Joan & I had an evening meal and the boys had icecreams. Then 'home' to the caravan, – BLACK SHOULDERED KITE

[January 13th 1952] While the boys were being given
drinks of milk and being put to bed I
strolled off and saw what birds I could.
We were on heathland with stunted
Messmate, banksia, leptospermum, and a
dwarf casuarina – and the birds:
GOLDFINCH, SKYLARK, BLUE WREN, EMU-WREN
GREY THRUSH, [MAGPIE], WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN,
BROWN THORNBILL, TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER, and
BLUE-WINGED PARROT, STRIATED FIELD-WREN
When the boys were bedded down, one
on the front and one on the back seat of the
car, we washed and went to bed ourselves.
From nearby came the calls of the RUFOUS
BRISTLE-BIRD and the EASTERN SPINEBILL. The
temperature dropped suddenly, a few drops
of rain fell and then a cool wind from
the sea sprang up which made us
very happy that we picked such a
sheltered spot.

Monday January 14th 1952 We passed quite a
(39) D. fair night despite a thunderstorm ; the noise on
(52) T. the rain on the caravan was deafening. Joan

[January 14th 1952] slept poorly and Jonathan called for a whizz at 4:15 a.m. which I coped with. We had breakfast at 8.0 am and left by car for Port Campbell. The birds which I listed today as additional to the heathland bird association are [STARLING, KESTREL, SWAMP-HARRIER] YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER, and PEREGRINE FALCON. This makes a total of eighteen species.

We went through Port Campbell on the Princetown road and stopped at the various tracks leading off to the cliffs and finishing at the Loch Ardt Gorge. There I picked up a dead SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER. On the Sherbrooke River were BLACK SWANS. We returned to Port Campbell for morning-tea and then back to the Ocean Rd. In the inlet were MOUNTAIN DUCK and REED-WARBLERS. We went down a long walk down the side of the cliff to Two Mile Bay. The wind was a bit cold and the boys tired so we had our long trek up very shortly again, in which the boys did very well.

[January 14th 1952] After lunch we set off west, with the
caravan behind us to Peterborough. We
went slowly though and out on the
Warrnambool road. On this stretch we saw
the WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER, WHITE-FACED HERON,
WHITE-NECKED HERON and WILLIE-WAGTAIL. We
had afternoon tea about 4.30 in Warrnambool,
made some purchases and went down to,
the beach. There was a fair functioning
and I took Johnny on the merry-go-round.
There was a large inlet at that spot,
on which were BLACK DUCK, GREY TEAL, COOT,
CRESTED TERN, HOODED DOTTEREL, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, and a
small wader I did not have the
opportunity of identifying.
Then on to Port Fairy, LARGE
BLACK CORMORANT, where we cruised round,
looking for a camping spot finally deciding
on the edge of the harbour. It is
quite a good spot with few flies. The
boys and I went for a stroll before tea
and watched terns, and people fishing
from the fishing boats.

Tuesday January 15th 1952.
(43) D.
(66) T

After Breakfast I took the boys to Port Fairy's South Beach for the morning while Joan had a rest. Purely family duties were not productive of birds. Gulls were by us on the beach and when one immature [guess] bird started running towards the water while looking in the air, my attention was drawn to a WHISTLING EAGLE soaring 1000' [feet] up and 1/2 a mile away, swiftly in the other direction.

After lunch Joan sat with the children while, they had a sleep and I was off the leash for 2 1/2 hours. I went out on the Portland Rd and stopped at Goose Lagoon which was teeming with birds. – HOARY-HEADED GREBE, MUSK DUCK, STRAW-NECKED IBIS, WHITE IBIS, WHITE EGRET and a pair of BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL. By the road the lagoon was full of rushes and water plants. In the distance the open water was seen to be teeming with duck.

I went out to Yambuck where I hoped to see the estuary of the Shaw R. I could only see it from a distance and

[January 15th 1952] there was nothing exciting to be seen. But it had one large freshwater swamp nearby which was teeming with birds and, EASTERN SWAMPHEN, LITTLE GREBE, ROYAL SPOONBILL and WHITE-HEADED STILT were added to the list. I returned to the Goose Lagoon and walked about a mile to the open water, putting up some STUBBLE QUAIL from the paddocks. MARSH TERNS were fluttering in large flocks over the water. There were simply acres of duck. Unfortunately I was looking into the sun and Grey Teal + Mountain Duck were the only birds I could be sure of. There were others which I could not identify.

When I returned the family went and had tea with Matron Scanlan at the hospital and then for a few moments to the southern beach. There were GANNETS diving off-shore in large flocks of Gulls + Terns. We ended up by walking right out to the end of the breakwater where we could see the large flocks of Gulls and Terns coming in to roost.

Wednesday January 16th 1952 – After
(39) D breakfast we packed up, hitched the caravan
(26) T. onto the car and left our spot. We bought
a few groceries and I left Joan and the boys
at the eastern beach while I went off to get
a welding job done on the caravan. This
took about 1/2 hour and I then left the
caravan at the beach for Joan, setting off
myself for the Goose Lagoon at its northern
tip where it approaches the Henty Highway.
On the way I saw a BROWN
HAWK. I walked through tussocks, with a
sharp look out for snakes to the edge of
the swamp which was alive with SHARP-
TAILED SANDPIPERS. I walked slowly along
marvelling at the richness of the bird life
both in species and numbers – much as
the Barrier Reef is alive with marine life. I
watched the teal as they came swooping
down wind a few yards away. A
LITTLE GRASS BIRD'S mournful cry came from
the reeds on the opposite shore. A pair of
YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILLS flew heavily into the

[January 16th 1952] wind. The air for a mile around was
afloat with Straw-necked Ibis.
I had a swim when I got back, before
lunch in the caravan. Then we hitched up +
westwards to Portland. The trip was uneventful
with Jonathon asleep in the caravan and
Michael in the back seat. I saw a DUSKY
WOOD-SWALLOW and FAIRY MARTIN at Tyendarra.
In Portland we had a short look round,
bought some ice-creams and then on to
the Bridgewater Road which was terrible.
We did stop for a flock of WHITE-BROWED &
MASKED WOOD-SWALLOWS and a YELLOW-FACED
HONEY-EATER. I unhitched the caravan at
the beach and went over to the Blow-Holes
looking for a better site but there was none
and I returned to set up the caravan on
the grass at the edge of the beach. Along
the beach were five PIED OYSTER CATCHERS
and in a final stroll of the evening
I played hide-and-seek with a Hooded
Dotterel before finding the nest with one
egg on the shingle.

Thursday 17th January 1952.

(27) D

(18) T

I got up at 6.30 and walked along to the Dotterels nest. On the way I found a party of SINGING HONEYEATERS in the box-thorn by the beach. It was the first time I had a really good look at them and I smiled to think that I ever confused them with the Yellow-faced Honeyeater. They reminded me more of the Tufted Honeyeater. Though I have probably made a fortuitously correct identification on the coast round Glen Aire, I am now suspicious of any other occasion when I said I saw it.

I set the camera up several yards away from the nest and moved it up just before breakfast. Returning at 9.0 am I set the camera up in its final position and waited until 11.0 am smothered in flies. The birds were never far away but never came to the nest. So I contented myself with two shots of the nest and one of habitat. It was a pity for the light was even and required 1/100 sec at f 22. During lunch I

[17th. January 1952] noticed the two little birds winging past the caravan away from the nest 200 yards away!

In the afternoon we went into Portland. The two Wood-Swallows were still in the same spot on the road where there was also a party of BUFF-TAILED THORNBILLS. In Portland I looked up Noel Learmouth and found he was at bowls. So I had a very few short words with him and left.

We returned by Cashmore and the heathland to Bridgewater Lakes. To the north-west was a fantastic array of huge sand-dunes marching in from the sea, swallowing up the ti-tree. To the south were sheer cliffs with some of the most immense clouds of spray rising up against them that I have ever seen. Below us, sheltered from the sea by the dunes were the Bridgewater Lakes looking oddly out of place, green & reedy, where they were. On one a Magpie-Lark was walking on the water weeds. A visit to the Dotterels assured me that the nest was not deserted – but they were off like a shot.

Friday Jan 18th 1952 We woke late and it was 10.0
(30) D am before I set off with the boys to Portland.
(82) T. Michael had woken up with scattered, but definite chicken-pox and a visit to the chemist was advisable. There were also a few stores to get. On the way I saw a large pair of raptors soaring. Through the glasses, the first I picked up was a WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE and I expected the other to be. But strangely enough it was a [SWAMP HARRIER] circling as if it were the eagles mate.

After a few purchases, I called again on Learmouth and had morning tea with him. We had a good chat and got to know each other far better than we did on the unfortunate occasion on the previous day. He has seen over 70 species in his grounds and at the moment a [WHITE-BROWED WOOD-SWALLOW] was nesting just above his deck-chair on the garden. I also heard, while there, a RED-WATTLE-BIRD calling.

On the way back I stopped several times for birds and saw a small

[Friday, Jan 18th, 1952] flock of SILVEREYES and ~~a pair of~~ two immature CRIMSON ROSELLAS – the first of the parrot and cockatoo family to be seen on the trip. The [HOODED DOTTEREL] was sitting when I got back.

I had a good sleep after lunch and at 5.0 pm. the family set off for a walk along the base of the cliff towards the headland, up to a deserted farm, and back over the top. It was roughly two miles which is not a bad walk for Jonathon at 3 years – not to speak of a little boy with his first day of chicken-pox.

The last day of the holidays,

Saturday Jan 19th 1952 there is nothing to report about birds – left at

(29) D 9.15, morning tea at Port Fairy, petrol at Warrnambool,

(82) T lunch at Terang and home at 2.0 pm. Nothing new was seen. It has a been a good family holiday and, seeing that it was a family holiday, it was quite successful for birds. But I wish I had that Dotterel's photo.

18th-23rd May 1952 Lorne.

On Sunday the family went to Lorne for a week – purely a family holiday with no notice [guess] or forethought as regards the birds. However we of course did go for walks and a few records of interest should go down here.

The afternoon we arrived we all went for a walk from Thalassa to Teddy's Lookout. At the start, behind Lorne, I saw a WHITE GOSHAWK. From Teddy's we could see many ALBATROSSES round the fishing-boats and indeed during the whole week they could ~~[?]~~ always be seen not far out and from the windows of Thalassa we could watch them following the boats in.

On Tuesday we went over to Allenvale and up to Phantom Falls. Arriving back, in the orchard at Allenvale was a male MISTLETOE-BIRD – my first record for the district. Next day I saw one opposite Thalassa in Fern Avenue!

On Wednesday we drove up the Erskine

[18th-23rd May 1952] Rd and wandered a bit in wet bush and bracken-paddock. When just entering Lorne on our return we put up a flock of WHITE-WINGED CHOUGHS – my second record for the district.

On Thursday we drove to the Sheoak R. and walked up to the Falls.

On Friday (the day we left) I spent round Lorne and saw a BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE in front of the Pacific Hotel. In the garden at Thalassa, at last, at long last, I saw the PIED CURRAWONG whose existence in the Otways I was beginning to doubt.

All of which points to the doubtful moral that one can see birds in one's own garden without searching. The question remains – what interesting records might I not have got if I had wandered off by myself.

September 30th 1952 – SUMMARY 1951-52.

It is well into the next breeding season before I have settled down to this summary, almost 3 months late.

The years first big excitement was the hundreds of Blue-billed Duck on L. Thurrumbong in September, with which I have been able, very satisfyingly, to impress my colleagues – even Jack Jones had never seen them in such numbers, and had never seen them flying. The Mallee. at Hattah, was the Year's bird holiday and an extremely fine one it was, with a lot of new species for me and a very good time socially, That was closely followed by the trip to Waaree with Max and the finding of the Ground-Parrot, one of these day's outing I will never forget. A holiday to the Grampians was more of a family nature, though pleasant and – interesting enough. Similarly was our caravaning holiday westwards along the south coast in January, and the

[September 30th. 1952] the holidays at Lorne. Despite these trips
I did not get out so much in this
district, mainly due to the work involved
in the native section at Narroglind [guess], which
occupied many of my free week-ends.
Narroglind [guess] itself was interesting for
the Pipit and Stubble Quail bred on the
block. The numerous stakes marking
trees attracted many birds as perches. The
lower 2 acres, fenced off from cows
and rabbits, grew long grass which
sheltered many mice, which in turn
attracted a pair of Black-shouldered
Kites for about 3 months.

The season was most extraordinary
for the number of water fowl present.
Hoary-headed Grebe were still present
from the winter of 1951 in large numbers.
The Marsh Tern, White-headed Stilt ~~and~~
Yellow-billed Spoonbill & White-necked Heron were present after
a period of 3 years absence, the Avocet
after 4 years, and the two Ibises after
2 years away. The white Egret made

[September 30th. 1952] its first appearance in flocks that I have seen. Gull-billed Terns were nesting.

Duck were in vast numbers, particularly Grey Teal, and the Pink-eared and Blue-billed Ducks were present in thousands. The Freckled Duck was also here, though I did not see it alive. Finally the season was remarkable for the invasion of Black-shouldered Kites which were throughout Southern Victoria. I may have seen, at the block, a Letterwinged Kite, but I doubt it.

Six new birds were listed for the district – Dove prion (4th Victorian record), Arctic Skua (Roy WHEELER), Red-kneed Dotterel, Spotted Nightjar, Buff-tailed Thornbill and Brown Tree-creeper. My own personal additions number 12 for the district, and totally new birds for the year were 21.

It was a year of unusual events, of unusual bird movements, and I much wish I could have got out more locally to get further details of them. My only

[September 30th. 1952] main memories are the Blue-billed Ducks, the one Ground Parrot and the one Bustard that I saw.

13.10.52 After lunch Max McGarvie and I set off on our
([?]) camping trip in the Otways. The R.A.O.U. [Royal Australasian
([?]) Ornithologists Union] had this year gone to Palm Valley, near Alice Springs, and, quite apart from the expense of such a trip I had to wait for the arrival of Louise! So Max and I decided to look round close to home and spend as much of a fortnight as we wished camping where we liked.

The weather for many months had been very and still is, though not raining when we set out. We went off via Stoneyford, Cobden to Waarre. We picked up few birds on the way YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL, BLACK SWAN, SWAMP HARRIER RAVEN and MAGPIE before we had our first 'find' of CORELLAS at Cobden. Straight through to our destination with GOLDFINCH, STARLING, NOISY MINER YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL, WHITE-FRONTED HERON, GREY BUTCHER-BIRD, EASTERN ROSELLA, SWALLOW, KOOKABURRA, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER, BLUE WREN, MAGPIE-LARK, COMMON BRONZEWING AND CRIMSON ROSELLA. Beyond

[13.10.52] Timboon we came across many pairs of BLUE-
WINGED PARROTS of which we continued to see many
while we were in that district. Up the Waarre road
to our camping spot we saw the WHITE-FRONTED CHAT
and stopped for a very good view of a pair of
SPOTTED QUAIL-THRUSH – a new bird for Max.

We camped in off the road with a tent-
fly over the car and tied to the trees opposite.
Around us, in light regenerating bush, we could
hear the NATIVE THRUSH, FAN-TAIL CUCKOO, FLAME ROBIN
RED-TIPPED PARDALOTE, GREY FANTAIL, WHITE-NAPED
HONEYEATERS, BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE, GOLDEN
WHISTLER and WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER. We
went down for water, across the pasture which
has now been very much enlarged and the vast
stretches of grass-trees have been much reduced in
area. Crossing this, down to the stream we
saw the PIPIT, SKYLARK, GREY CURRAWONG, STRIATED FIELD-W [WREN]
and BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE.

14.10.52 We did not have a particularly good night – to
(37) newness of camp and the cold, but Max developed
(52) severe ear-ache and had very little sleep. We had
an early breakfast and set off for the grass-tree.

[14.10.52] at 8.0 am. There had been no rain and scarcely any wind since we arrived the previous evening. Today shone bright with a cloudless sky. It was perfect weather with a fresh northerly spring up late in the morning. We followed our previous route in search of the Ground Parrot, adding to the list the RED WATTLE-BIRD, EASTERN SPINE BILL (in the bush) and KESTREL, DUSKY WOODSWALLOW, SOUTHERN EMU-WREN YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER, GOSHAWK, YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO in the heath. We went thoroughly over the area where we had seen the parrot before but could not flush it. We continued the search and eventually sought shade in a patch of timber of several acres in the centre of the heath. There we saw the RUFOUS WHISTLER and had a very interesting (and instructive) view of the GOLDEN and HORSFIELD BRONZE-CUCKOO, comparing their call, plumage and field characteristics – all within a quarter of an hour.

Setting off homewards we flushed the TAWNY-CROWWED HONEYEATER and as we approached camp, saw the BROWN THORNBILL in the branches of felled gums. We rested after lunch and set out

[14.10.52] again for the grass-tree. We hadn't been going
very long before Max called a halt and we waded
over to the other end of the patch of gums
that we had visited that morning. There we
found a Black-Shouldered Kite's nest with bird
sitting. Max's ear had pained all day and as
he was almost all in, he returned straight
to the camp, putting up a STUBBLE QUAIL on the way.
I pushed on, up and down, in the heath
which is hard going because of the height one
has to lift one's feet and the forcing of the
thighs through thick bushes. I came across a
sick young kangaroo which could only make a
few hops before falling sideways. I left him
to it, wishing I could have shot him. I made
a big sweep, zig-zagging and covering as much
ground as I could and exploring the greatest
area of that shallow valley. I had to put
the sleeves of my shirt down for sunburn!
I staggered back to camp, seeing a party of
WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WRENS near home. We were
too hungry to eat lunch and after a couple of
Nembutal [guess] each, turned in early.

15.10.52 We decided, after our failure with the Ground
(52) Parrot, and our general weariness, to move on and
(73) spend most of the day in the car. So we
packed and drove into Port Campbell – SPARROW
and WILLIE-WAGTAIL! I went out to where
the family had spent the night carvaning* [caravanning], but
Johnny's pot was nowhere to be seen. We donned
our rubber boots and explored the muddy, reedy
creek at Port Campbell, seeing only one ~~silver~~
SILVER GULL, a LITTLE GRASS-BIRD, BLACK CORMORANT
and BROWN HAWK. We had an hour's wait
for milk, when Max was feeling very unwell, during
which I saw a GALAH fly over the town! Possibly
an escape.

Looking out to sea from the cliffs we saw
a WANDERING ALBATROSS – pure white – fly out to
sea. From Lock Ard we picked up two
ALBATROSS, with black backs – Black-browed or
[?]. We then pulled in to the pine forest at
the Sherbrooke River and went up it for a few
hundred yards, hearing SILVEREYES. Then we
walked down to the mouth, one of us on each
side of the river, looking in the reeds. We found

[15.10.52] in that stretch the RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD, BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL and SINGING HONEYEATER.

It was a grey day with a high N-W wind. We had lunch in the car as the first drops of rain fell, which they continued to do for nearly the whole of the rest of the day. We moved eastwards through Princetown to Lower Gellibrand – FAIRY MARTIN, BLACKBIRD, WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE and RED-BROWED FINCH. We turned off the Lower Gellibrand road, putting on a little speed for the Max again was feeling ill. We pitched a camp in an old gravel pit, well up and off the road between Devondale and Chapple Vale. Max went straight to sleep and I wandered for a while in light rain on the river flats, putting up a BLACK DUCK. We had a good big evening meal, during which a SCARLET ROBIN sang nearby. In the evening, while Max went down on to the flats, I walked up onto the heathland but all was quiet and silent. Max saw a YELLOW ROBIN, and as we are now writing, under a cold rainless sky, a BOOBOOK OWL is calling.

16.9.52 We both had a good night, Max in the car
(37) and myself beside it, though there were some
(79) heavy showers. We were up shortly after 5.0 AM,
had finished breakfast, tidied up and were off
at 7.0 to look at the scrub beside the river.
The going was very thick, particularly fallen
trees and saplings from the flood. At one
spot we heard moving [guess] and grunting calls
and Max saw what he thought was a 'green'
SATIN BOWER-BIRD but we are not positive of
the identification. We heard and caught the
nearest glimpse of an OLIVE WHISTLER.

We were back at the car at 9.0 AM
and after packing and writing notes set off in it
at 10.0. We went through Chapple Vale on the
Lavers Hill Rd. We stopped and watched
them winching logs up from the gully – an
interesting and incredibly muddy operation.
It was now very cold and began to rain hard.
At Lavers Hill I rang home but could only
speak to Nancy Squires. I learnt that supplies
could only be got at Beech Forest so went off there
dropping Max in the patch of scrub at Weeaproinah.

[16.9.52] which I have often explained myself and where
he got onto more Olive Whistlers. Having got my
supplies, and picked Max up again, we had
lunch in the car in pouring rain on the
Ocean Rd. [Road] just below Lavers Hill.
Then on, in the heavy cold showers,
to Glen Aire, Hordern Vale to the mouth
of the Aire R. Where we got properly
stuck in greasy ground at the bottom of
a long hill. An hour and a half we spent
trying to get out and eventually I decided to
walk for help. While I was away Max
got onto CASPIAN TERNS, REED-WARBLERS and
LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS. I walked 2 ½ miles
and returned with a chap called Stewart and
a tractor who pulled us up and out of the
hill. We made straight for Apollo Bay,
where we saw GANNETS and CRESTED TERNS.
We call in at Greenacres got a room, a
bath, a meal and a warm dry bed, while
heavy showers of hail and rain with a
bitterly cold wind ranged outside. My Mother
with Michael and Jonathan had arrived to

[16.9.52] stay that afternoon and we were all very pleased to see each other. I had a ring from Joan later, who sounded very miserable – I don't know what our plans will be.

17.10.52 (40) (87) After a really lazy start to the day, and getting in provisions, we set off for Apollo B. [Bay] at 11.0 am in the direction of Cape Otway. We finally made camp 5 miles down the C. [Cape] Otway Rd, just off the road under a sand-bank which raised the tent-fly high and gave good shelter.

After a small lunch we took the car back to the Ocean Rd, and leaving it there, walked west down the gully which I always associate with Bower-birds. This time however we did not see any. It was a windy day with blue sky broken with large white clouds and an occasional shower. The gully was very beautiful and we admired it just as much as we did the birds. In the gully we came across the LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD, GANG-GANG, KING PARROT (a pair flew over our shoulders and perched on a limb 15' [inches] away, EASTERN SHRIKE-TIT,

[17.10.52] YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER, TREE MARTIN. Just as we got to the top of the gully we got a good view, though brief, of a WHITE GOSHAWK. We explored an old wood-cutters track with no result.

We drove back to camp, and leaving the car in position walked on down the road. We saw very little and had to spend some time sheltering from heavy showers. Tea, a talk by the camp-fire and bed at 8.10 pm.

18.10.52 (47) (91) We woke early in moderate rain, cold and swarming with mosquitoes. However after breakfast the weather cleared up a bit and we walked from the camp to a fern gully which probably runs into the Parker. Lots of Olive Whistlers but no Pink (or Rose) Robins or Rufus Fantails, that we were looking for. We walked on through curious dune country, covered with banksia, bracken and a mixture of stringy-bark and smooth gums, to find within a few yards of the camp a BUFF-TAILED and STRIATED THORNBILLS. Also within a few yards of the camp are three Whistlers – Oliver, Golden and Rufous.

[18.10.52] Leaving Max in the Satin Bower-bird gully I went on to Horden Vale to ring Mrs Denny. We were invited to morning tea and arrived about 10.45. An hour later we set off a few miles up the Lavers Hill Rd to see what we could see – nothing much, a CRESCENT HONEYEATER being our only addition to the list. After lunch we went further up the road and, with Mrs Denny, scrambled down to the Ford River where it was very moist and ferny. Though there for more than an hour we saw more of the Robins we were after. But we did see, before we left Glen Aire at 5.30 two WHISTLING EAGLES. Back to camp, a late meal and chat and bed at 9.15.

19.10.52 We had a good night and were later than
(40) usual setting off. We walked through the
(96) heath just to the north of our camp, seeing only Emu-wrens & Field Wrens. The only excitement was when I came across a snake lying on top of the heath and fell over backwards in my retreat. Back to camp to write up these notes. Mrs Denny arrived in her car at 10.0 am and we went on to the second cattle-pit where

[19.10.52] we followed a cattle track off to the water trough where we sat for a while looking down on the ti-tree*[tea-tree], listening to the whistlers but seeing nothing new. Then we moved on to the Parker R. where we chatted to Clarence Marriner, [guess] and where we came across a party of ORANGE-WINGED SITELLAS. Down by the river we heard a SACRED KINGFISHER and a female PINK ROBIN. We found the ground too boggy to go down to the mouth of the Parker so returned to our camp for lunch where we heard and saw the SPOTTED PARDALOTE.

After lunch we returned to the Ocean R, and leaving our cars at the head of the track we had explored two days ago. We went down some 2 ½ miles through fairly good scrub to the Calder R., where we sat and watched for Pink Robins. However we only saw two females which we definitely identified as this species. We also heard the MISTLETOE-BIRD. It was a long, tiring walk up back to the road where we sat by our car and finished a bottle of beer. We said goodbye to Mrs.

[19.10.52] Denny and returned to our camp, a meal
and a chat, and bed at 9.15.

20.10.52 We had a good night, but woke tired.

(51) After breakfast we struck camp and moved

(102) off down to the light-house. We struck off
into the sand dunes which were well covered
with grass and good walking. We saw
nothing till we came to a small patch of
stunted, wind-blown gums where we saw
the WHITE-PLUMED HONEY-EATER and PALLID CUCKOO.
We searched the dunes and other patches of
timber for Orange-breasted Parrots but found
not even a Blue-Wing. We went down
to Crayfish Bay and watched the terns,
garnets and Albatross.

We went into Apollo Bay before
lunch and visited the RED-CAPPED DOTTERELS.
I rang Joan, who is apparently still unhappy,
had a word with Mum + Dad who were with
Michael and Jonathan and bought ourselves
some pies. These we demolished on the
breakwater. After lunch we went out to
Paradise where we sat in the scrub and saw

[20.10.52] a female Pink Robin building a nest – still no male. Max saw a pair of COLLARED SPARROW-HAWK[S] and there were (at last) MOUNTAIN THRUSHES. We are very tired and soon sat going through notes and writing this up, during which we have heard the BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER. We plan to stay here tonight (despite the "No Camping" sign) and I don't think it will be long before we are home.

21.10.52 Well we stayed there the night –
(89) very comfortably for the weather was
(129) mild and still. We were packed up early next morning and had a last look round our ferny gully and the river. We were both delighted to see a pair of SATIN FLYCATCHERS – the first time I had seen them in the district : the only new personal record for the trip, for me.

We filled with Petrol at Apollo Bay and going up by Skene's Crk, turned into Turton's Track. There at last we found a pair of Pink Robins, saw them both, heard the male's song and, I think, definitely

[21.10.52] identified them. Warren Hitchcock wanted skins for the museum so I had a shot at the female with a .22 dust shot and missed. Max had a shot at the male; it flew 10 yards and fell like a stone in 10 feet of cut limbs and leaves and we never found it! We were very greatly disappointed and disgusted – and wet!

We went on to the swamp at Gerangamete and had a walk round it before lunch. There we saw the EASTERN SWAMP HEN, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, WHITE COCKATOO, GOLDEN-HEADED FANTAIL-WARBLER, and MOUNTAIN DUCK. That brought our list for the Otways up to 107, including 5 introduced species.

After lunch in the car; in pouring rain we went on the Colac road (BANDED PLOVER at Yeo) to BALL'S DAM where we saw the COOT and DUSKY HOORHEN. Through Irrewarra (WHITE-NECKED HERONS) to Loch Calvert at Ondit (LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT, MARSH TERN,

[21.10.52] HOARY-HEADED GREBE, CRESTED GREBE, MUSK DUCK, and PELICAN) to the Beeac floods on to the floods at Eurack where we had a field day – WHITE HEADED STILT, GREY TEAL, BLUE-WINGED SHOVELLER, HARDHEAD, PINK-EARED DUCK and AVOCET. The flood waters had given us birds!

We went on through Cressy, but could not get on the Camperdown road past Foxhow because of the floods so had to turn right and go up through Gnarpurt to Lismore. On that stretch we saw the RESTLESS FLYCATCHER, BLUE-BILLED DUCK and RED-BACKED PARROT. South from Lismore to Camperdown, we saw the STRAW-NECKED IBIS, past Milangil and the "Cape Barron GOOSE Lake" (on which there was practically nothing), and so through to Pomborneit and 5 miles of the Hawksnest Rd where I dropped Max at home. Five miles back again on the Hawksnest road to the Princes Highway where I saw the last bird of the trip on the Black Swamp – the WHITE [EGRET]

[21.10.52] EGRET. Home at 7.10 pm after doing 192 miles for the day – tired dirty and unshaven, and very pleased indeed to be home.

It has been, on the whole a very successful holiday. Max' earache and subsequent illness, getting stuck at the Aire R., no new birds for the district, can be balanced by fairly good weather, excellent camping, good country, the Kites and Pink Robins nests, the Satin Flycatcher and a total list of 129 birds – a very good total indeed. And I do now know much more about the Otways, particularly round the Cape, which was my intention.

[FOLD OUT – MAP]

[Photo] Camp 5 miles down C. [Cape] Otway Rd

Oct 17-19th 1952

SUMMARY 1952 – 1953.

There has been only one entry for the whole year since my last summary - that of the trip in the Otways with Max. Little summarising is now necessary. The paucity of bird trips is of course due to the final stages of constructions of Narroglu[?], the move, and the large amount of time and energy of settling in and making the surroundings look something less like a builders yard! Most birding has been done incidental to other trips. (e.g. showing Bob around and immunizing) or in short snatches of time taken off from work.

The most important addition to my bird list was the BLACK FALCONS, shown to me at Warncoort by Noel Dennis – in fact, the only 'new bird' for the year. Galah and Corella were added to the local list and the Giant Petrel was seen off Apollo Bay.

At Australia Day Weekend Tina Watson, Margaret Chattaway, and Nancy [Fletcher]

[Nancy] Fletcher came up and I was able to put them onto a pair of Brolgas – a new bird for all three. More recently, after a late much determined wait at the Windsor I contacted Claude Austin and had a good, but all too short talk on birds.

The year has not been as spectacular for water birds as was the previous season. No Black-Shouldered Kites have appeared the year. There are more White-necked Heron about than usual – perhaps last years big influx has left us with a breeding population.

And so we end a very quiet year and hope to get out and about more next season.

Nov 15th 1953. (37)

The first entry for over twelve months – reasons being much the same as the first paragraph of the summary. I have not written up my amusing campaigns in the Colac Shire – were not particularly

[15.11.53] bird-worthy though I lunched each day
in the Stony Rises – nor have I written
up any of my visits to the creek-mouth
or Loch Calvert, two favourite spots for the
odd half-hour or so. I don't think they
really qualify for the diary, though
should I start regular watching on the
Loch, I shall write in here.

However today an outing was
made at Michael's insistence to picnic in
the Sheoaks beyond Winchelsea. We set
out at 2.45 and the trip down produced
RAVEN · MAGPIE · MAGPIE-LARK · STARLING · SPARROW.
At Bleak House creek, there were numerous
GULLS, GULL-BILLED TERNS, MARSH TERNS, EASTERN SWAMP-HEN
and a single HOARY-HEADED GREBE. Beyond
Winchelsea a pair of WHITE COCKATOOS were
seen.

We went first to the small lake
just south of the Steel's and had a
short walk with the three children. On
the water were MUSK DUCK. COOT. a pair of
BLACK DUCK. Feeding at or near the edge were

[Nov 15th 1953] SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, BLACK-FRONTED DOTTERELL, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, CHATS, GOLDFINCHES and a BLACK-BIRD. On the way back to the car we went by a reedy swamp where we heard the LITTLE GRASS-BIRD, and saw a WHITE-NECKED HERON, LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT and SKYLARK.

After afternoon tea I left the family and did a walk of nearly two miles in a circle to the east, almost reaching the shore of the other, larger lake. At first there were many dead, morbid, Red Gums, on which was a STRIATED PARDALOTE and a pair of RED-BACKED PARROT – my second sighting for the district. In a very large, shallow swamp in which was growing short grass were two YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL and three STILTS, as well as a fair-sized flock of Sandpiper. There were too many WHITE-FACED HERONS. I saw a hawk – Goshawk or Peregrine – flying low over the swamp with a large, unidentified prey in its talons. There were, in the surrounding dry grass, many PIPITS,

[Nov 15th 1953] A LITTLE PIED CORMORANT flew over the swamp.

For tea we went to the Sheoaks, and in a wander afterwards, in a medium sized gum, was an extraordinarily silent party of WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATERS, an equally silent WILLIE-WAGTAIL and a nest containing three young BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKES – far too big for it. These the children were shown. Michael spotted a KOOKABURRA. This too was silent – in fact, the whole place may be called the 'Silent Sheoaks' – particularly as we were there from 5.15 to 6.45.

On the way home we added a WHISTLING EAGLE to the list – a mere 37 but how nice to look for birds and write the diary again.

21st Nov 1953 Joan and I set off for a

(33) two weeks holiday to Sydney via the coast. Close muggy weather and on the way to town saw STARLING · SPARROW GOLDFINCH · GREEN FINCH · SILVER GULLS · GULL BILLED TERNS · MARSH TERNS · MAGPIE · MAGPIE LARK · RAVEN

[21st. November 1952] PIPIT · BROWN HAWK · STRAW-NECKED IBIS · BLACK-FACED
CUCKOO-SHRIKE. In Melbourne we came to
the MYNAH · TURTLE-DOVE · WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER.
We had lunch at the Trevor
Rice's, in North Kew, looking over the
Yarra where we saw the WHITE-FACED
HERON · LITTLE PIED CORMORANT · BLACK CORMORANT ·
BLACK DUCK and KOOKABURRA. Crossing
the river on the way there I heard a
REED-WARBLER. After a very pleasant
meal and look round we left at four,
passing out a Town through Doncaster
Box Hill, Ringwood, + Croydon. On
route we saw the BLACKBIRD, and it
was not until we made the big climb
up to Kalorama that we changed the
kind of birds seen – FANTAILED CUCKOO · YELLOW
ROBIN · SPINEBILL and WHIPBIRD.
Having settled into Nammoora, at
Mt Dandenong and had a cup of tea, we
went for a short stroll down into the gully
meeting GOLDEN WHISTLER · MOUNTAIN THRUSH ·
WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN · RUFOUS FANTAIL · GREY [FANTAIL]

[21st Nov. 1953] [GREY] FANTAIL. Our stroll was made in light
rain, trying to make the air a little less
oppressive.

22nd November '53 We left Mt Dandenong at
(63) 9.30 and made our way along the ridge, and
(65) down to Ferntree Gully – HORSFIELD BRONZE CUCKOO
CRIMSON ROSELLA · NATIVE THRUSH and EASTERN ROSELLA.
There we turned left and went through
Belgrave, Emerald and Gembrook where we
met the CRESCENT HONEYEATER · RED-BROWED FINCH
BLUE WREN · BRONZE-WING · TREE MARTIN and
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER. Turning South at
Gembrook we came out onto the Princes
Highway at Nar-Nar-Goon – DUSKY
WOOD-SWALLOW and BELL MINER.
Then, out of the bush, we started
the second stage of our trip in the Latrobe
Valley, through Warragul, Moe and Yallourn
where we had a brief look around the SEC [State Electricity Commission].
works and, fittingly enough saw a RED
WATTLE BIRD. Then through Morwell and
Traralgon to Rosedale – NOISY MINER · WHITE
COCKATOO · NANKEEN KESTREL · WHISTLING EAGLE – 16

[22nd November 53] birds seen giving a good idea of the changing nature of the country.

We had lunch at Rosedale, just over the river on the left in the recently flooded caravan-park. Opposite us was a swamp in which we saw WHITE IBIS · YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL · EASTERN SWAMP-HEN · DUSKY MOORHEN · SPUR-WINGED PLOVER and heard the LITTLE GRASS BIRD. Just as we finished lunch Joan saw a snake in the grass just beside her – 3-4' [feet] away!!!

In the afternoon we got into the third stage of that day's journey – the long straight stretches of road in open forest, crossing the steeply cut rivers – with the mountains away to the right. Shortly after Rosedale we came to a large, shallow lake, on or around which were SWAN · MOUNTAIN DUCK · GREY TEAL · WHITE-HEADED STILT · HOARY-HEADED GREBE · RED-CAPPED DOTTERELL. Then in the open timber, in which there was much swampy land – GOSHAWK · LITTLE GREBE · COOT · WHITE-NECKED

[22nd November 53] HERON · LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT · YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL · and SWAMP HAWK.

And so, from Bairnsdale through more undulating and forested country to Lakes Entrance where we immediately booked in at the Club Hotel at 4.30. Settled in we went for a stroll, eastwards through the township where by far the most interesting ornithological observation was the Silver Gulls 'puddling' in the shallow water and bringing up evidently plenty of food in the mud for they ate vigorously. In the harbour were PACIFIC GULLS · CRESTED TERNS · a pair of CASPIAN TERNS · a FAIRY TERN and a PIED OYSTERCATCHER. We crossed by footbridge to the sea-wall of sand dune and sat watching in the grey evening the incredibly calm and still waters of the ocean, and the antics of the gulls fighting for a morsel on the sand. As we turned to go a pair of PEREGRINES flew swiftly over head. We were in bed very early after tea – 7.30!

23rd Nov. – 1953. – . The 'early-to-bed' meant
(53) I was wide awake at 5.0 a.m. so I got
(85) up and stole quietly forth. It was
a warm sunny morning with the call
of a whip-bird echoing across the harbour.
I first walked over a causeway onto
a low island with a few banksias. I
saw some WHITE-FRONTED CHATS but none
of the waders I had hoped for. So then
I walked on the road up the cliff and
was able to find some smaller birds
which I had no doubt sped by in
the car with no time to see before –
BROWN THORNBILL – SILVEREYE · YELLOW-FACED
HONEYEATER · GOLDEN BRONZE-CUCKOO and
PALLID CUCKOO.
I had been too lazy to write
this up the previous night, so got
half the day before written up before
breakfast. After settling our account, I
got my punctured tyre mended (Sale, the
previous day) and found I will have
to get a new tyre, though it only had

[23rd Nov 1953] done some 7000 miles. Picture-post-card
for the children, collect our lunch and
off again at 9.30. The day to begin
with was fine and cool with scattered
clouds. The bush was more open; with
less undergrowth than I remembered.
The road was extremely good bitumen
which lasted till the 252 mile post; just
short of Cabbage Tree, after which the
road was a good smooth gravel for the
rest of the day's journey.

Around Orbost was a SCARLET
ROBIN and WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER
We had lunch at a creek just short
of Cann River. It was very still, grey
and peaceful, and we heard GANG-
GANGS. We stopped frequently in the
afternoon to look for plants, seeds of
some of which we collected and many
we experimented with transplanting into
Elastoplast tins keeping the plants as
undisturbed as possible and water-logged
How they will fare in the boot, I don't

[23rd Nov 1953] know. We arrived and booked in at 4.30 at the Malacoota Hotel. We took the car a little way down onto the headland and strolled along it. It was very still, with a few drops of rain, and the inlet looked superb – grey and calm. I saw a YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER in the banksia and found a Goshawks nest, the only nest so far of the trip. So home to dinner, after which I am writing this to the sound of heavy rain.

It was a disappointing day – 53 birds in all (only 10 more to the trips total) - no Bower-bird at Nowa Nowa; no Wonga Pigeon at Genoa and no Godwits – Barred or Black of tail on the sands here. But watching for plants that attracted us, made up for a lot and transformed what would have been an extremely frustrating day, into a peaceful idling day, in the gray still dusk, silent of birds, which were not so badly missed after all.

24-11-53 We got off to a good start at 9.0 a.m.
(61) in the cool, weather, turning right at
(98) Genoa, having departed from Malacoota
to the curious shrieking of the RAINBOW
LORIKEET. In the bush beyond Genoa
I saw a YELLOW-TAILED COCKATOO. The
road got more corrugated and rough in
N.S.W [New South Wales] and we stopped several times to
get plants. We turned down to Boyd
Town where we had an excellent
morning tea and saw high above a
young, pale WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE.
Beyond Eden the road and
bush was rather dull and we added
a JACKY WINTER to the list. At Bega we
went off to the right to Bermagui – a
delightful road and a relief after the
last 60 miles. We stopped just before
Bermagui to collect the seeds of a
new Callistemon and I saw both the
WHITE-NAPED and BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATERS
as well as a flock of PIED CURRAWONG and
a WHITE-BREASTED SEA EAGLE sailing high

[24.11.53] above an inlet. At Bermagui were six
GODWITS of undetermined sp? [species] and
far out at sea were very large
numbers of SHEARWATER moving
South – obviously unidentified also.
We met the Princes Highway
again at Tilba and spun along good
bitumen to Narooma where we had
afternoon tea and so on to Bateman's
Bay in cool overcast weather with a
few scattered drops of rain. We arrived
at 5.30 pm. Having done 345 miles
twice filling the tank at Lakes Entrance,
and no drop had gone into tank
in the meantime. The car has
given a little carburettor* [carburettor] trouble today,
but has not held us up at all – perhaps
that has helped the mileage.
I also realized during the day
that there were three common birds
seen each day of the trip that had
not gone into the notebook – WILLIE WAGTAIL,
SWALLOW and FAIRY MARTIN.

25.11.53 We set forth from the Hotel at 9.0 am
in overcast weather, and by the time we
had made a short trip down to our old
camping spot and crossed by ferry, it
was 9:30. The road was very good
and we had spun along gratefully on it.
From Milton to Nowra we had a steady
but light rain. We saw here the
NOISY FRIAR-BIRD · ORIOLE · and BLACK-BACKED
MAGPIE. At Nowra we had morning tea
and I bought myself a dozen oysters
and we moved on through Kiama,
much admiring the flame-trees and
jacarandas, through Woolongong *[Wollongong] to Bulli
Pass on the top of which we had our
lunch – myself demolishing the oysters
with no ill-effects
We turned into the National
Park and delighted in the wildflowers
some of which we collected. Then
down to the lake where I set off in
high hopes of many exotic birds. It was
disappointing and I saw the DOLLAR-BIRD.

[25.11.53] WHITE-THROATED WARBLER and LITTLE FRIAR-BIRD. I walked up the track a way and back again, when a SATIN BOWER-BIRD flashed off onto a sapling and back again. I watched and to my delight found it was at its Bower. I collected Joan and went back. We examined the bower – beautifully and precisely built with many blue odds and ends about it.

That was good compensation for an otherwise extraordinarily dull day for birds in the National Park – bringing my total for the trip up to 105 – not too bad I suppose for very continuous travel, for the extra interest in plants and the main fact that birds are 'extras' on this holiday.

26 – 27.11.53 (167) Two days spent in Sydney – on the latter we went up as far as St Ives and Epping to nurseries. Two more birds were added to the list – LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD and BULBUL. Tomorrow we are off again to the Blue Mountains.

28.11.53 We got away from the hotel at 10.45
(15) and having picked up some goods in the
(104) City began our way out west at noon.
By 1.0 pm we had got through Penrith
and Emu Plains and made our way up
Mitchell's Pass where we stopped at Lennox
Bridge for lunch. There I saw a
STRIATED THORNBILL and another bird
which I could not then identify but
next day found was the ROCK WARBLER.
We went on slowly through
the towns along the ridge, stopping
once to see Bentley's [guess] Nurseries. We
settled our things into the Ritz Hotel, Leura,
and took a short drive to Echo Point
where we had our first view to the
south of the "Blue Mountains", and ~~had~~
had a short walk round to the cascade.
29.11.53 Was a Sunday and a very quiet
(13) day spent mostly reading in beautiful
(109) weather in the grounds of the hotel.
Before lunch we went ~~for~~ in the car
round Cliff Drive, looking at the view

[26 – 27.11.55] from the various vantage points, and collecting a few seeds of plants. Before tea we went again to Echo Point where again I saw and identified the Rock Warbler, spending a quiet hour in the bush.

30.11.53 We went straight after breakfast
(9) to Narrow Neck where we walked south,
(110) for a mile or so onto the high land south of Katoomba. On the way we came across a family of CHESTNUT-TAILED HEATH-WRENS, the young tailless and unable to fly. I had a magnificent view of them and when I caught one young, had both parents ambling [guess] in feigned injury around me. It was hot and windless and we were very much out of condition.

At 4.0 pm. we went by car to Govets *[Govetts] Leap and viewed the more forbidding mountains and valleys to the east as the wind mounted and the weather changed for the worse.

Dec 1st 1953. We left the hotel at 9.15,
(60) turning back to the east, and, having picked
(124) up our plants at the nursery, were out of
the Blue Mountains by 10.30 and it was
getting hot. We turned south after Penrith
and travelled to the Hume Highway at
Narella *[Narellan], just north of Campden *[Camden]. It was
the first them we had been in the unpopulated
plains west of the divide – typical N.S.W. [New South Wales].
landscapes – undulating with tall gums
scattered in the paddocks, rivers lined
with trees, much Callitris – all red soil
and shimmering. In this stretch I saw
the RED-BACKED PARROT and SPOTTED PARDALOTE.
We went through Bowral and
Mittagong – and had our lunch in
a dry piece of scrub, in the shade of a
pine. A RUFOUS WHISTLER was singing in
the ti-tree behind us and it was only he[re] [guess]
that we saw the first SKYLARK. Not long
after lunch I stopped at one of those spots
that is full of birds – and to my list I
added BROWN TREE-CREEPER, DIAMOND FIRETAIL

[Dec 1st 1953] WHITE-WINGED TRILLER (on nest). CHOUGH (nest only) and STRIATED PARDALOTE. Many others as well including a pair I never caught up with to identify.

Then on through Goulbourn *[Golburn], we turned off to the left – south – to Canberra. By the road was a very large reedy swamp in which were both MUSK DUCK and HARDHEAD. Later we stopped again by L. George on which were at least 100 PELICANS, AVOCET and four pairs of WOOD DUCK. Just as we pulled up, on a small weedy dam on the other side of the road, I was just in time to see a Little Grebe cover its eggs with weed and slip off the nest.

And so into Canberra – 216 miles: the longest to date. But a day of new country which was interesting despite the heat, and 14 new birds for the list.

Dec 4th [1953] (42) (134) There had been nothing of ornithological interest to report in the preceding two days. We left the Canberra Hotel at 9.45 and out on the Yass road.

[Dec 4th 1953] The day was hot and close with a north westerly blowing hard. The country was dry red, and steeply undulating. On this stretch I saw WHITE-BROWED WOOD SWALLOW and the RUFOUS SONG-LARK. We resumed the Hume Highway and continued on it to Gundagai, on which stretch we met the RAINBOW BIRD. It was sweltering hot at Gundagai, with dark clouds rolling up. So we went to the river, got into our bathers (when it teamed with rain) and had the most refreshing swim. – QUAIL!

And so onto the Wagga road where we stopped to eat some fruit – our only desire for lunch. Just before Wagga I stopped to have a look round and saw our first ~~Gala~~ GALAHS and LITTLE LORIKEETS. There too were birds which I am sure were ELEGANT PARROTS. At Wagga we had another swim in very nice pool – opened only 6 days previously. At half-past four we moved

[Dec 4th 1953] on to the last stage of our journey – 91
miles to Lockhardt *[Lockhart] – all of which except
a few miles of reconstruction was a
perfect bitumen surface. Just before
Lockhart we saw a CRESTED PIGEON,
a pair of APOSTLE-BIRDS and a small
flock of BLUE BONNETS. We arrived at
the hotel – the room stifling despite
storm clouds, intermittent spattering of
heavy warm rain, and gusty wind.
The night of which it is best to have
an early night. The only sad
thing is that I seem to have lost,
probably at Yass where we filled with
petrol, my car log-book. It may
turn up in the indescribable mass of
luggage in the car.

5.12.53 I woke early, fortunately, and set out
(51) at 5.30 to have a look round. It was a
(141) cool sunny morning and full of bird-calls.
The country was flat with as much buloke and
below as there was eucalypt. There I saw
~~WHITE~~ MASKED WOOD-SWALLOW, RESTLESS FLYCATCHER

[5.12.53] BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE and GREY-CROWNED BABBLER. We set off from the New Gunyah Hotel at 9.0 pm., travelling west, past large stands of belar (Callitris). Just west of Urana, is a large lake – a mass of dead trees in shallow evaporating, the banks of which had a vigorous copice growth in which was a White-plumed Honeyeater feeding young in a nest and in which I got an extremely good view of a Pardalote – red-spot & white on primaries [guess] + all.

We filled with petrol at Jerilderie, had some tea and toast and went on west, with the creek running by us on the north, being fed by creeks over which we crossed – reedy & full of warblers, being a faint reminder of Wanganella. Just before Cobargo, I pulled the car in under the shade and went for a short walk along one of those creeks. There I saw YELLOW ROSELLAS in pairs, and, crossing the creek on a log, came into a

[5.12.53] coppice growth in which were a CHESTNUT-TAILED THORNBILL and BROWN WEEBIL. Arriving back at the car I found I had a puncture!

From there we travelled comfortably on the wide dirt roads, gravel or bitumen, through completely flat country to Deniliquin, where we turned south, past Mathoura, to Echuca. No new birds were to be seen, and once in Victoria again, we sped south to Rochester along that straight smooth road. We had intended to spend the night there, but because I had had no confirmation of my booking, and because we were early, we went on to Bendigo, where we booked in at the Shamrock.

6.12.53 (63) (148) Off at 9.0 in the morning with our boxes [?] headed for home – through Castlemaine, Daylesford, to Ballarat. I stopped a few times for birds. We had a brief lunch in Ballarat and went on south, reluctantly, slowing speed as we approached Colac. At Loch Calvert,

[6.12.53] I spent nearly an hour and added
a few birds to the list – WHITE EGRET,
CRESTED GREBE, PINK-EARED DUCK, SHARP-
TAILED SANDPIPER, CURLEW SANDPIPER and
~~little~~ LITTLE STINT. As, at 2.45, we
eventually drove in our gate we heard
the GREY BUTCHER-BIRD calling!
It has been an extremely
lazy holiday – for birds I have
merely kept my eyes open and did
the occasional 'potter'. The highlights
were the Bower-bird's bower and the
Heath-wren family.

JAN 23rd-29th – Caravanning Holiday.

[1953] (53) I write this on September 1st 1954, Circa [guess]
I fear been very lazy in writing this
diary up. However, before I make
the annual summary I feel I
should mention two bird outings – the
first caravanning holiday with the
three elder children. That was of
course not primarily birding. We were
first to Merricks where Michael had

[JAN 23rd – 29th 1954] been staying a week with Aunt Molly. We stayed there two nights and the only thing of interest was a WHITE-BROWED SCRUB WREN which was feeding a young PALLID CUCKOO. On the Monday morning we went on to Waratah Bay just on the western bay of Wilson's Promontory, where we had a sunny camp in the ti-tree scrub. A few yards from the caravan I found a WHIP-BIRD'S nest with 2 young in it. Also I saw large numbers of SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER in the Bay and found one fresh, dead bird on the beach. It was a good holiday – remarkably so – but I really outing saw the avifauna which I would have expected to see in the district. We came home in the one day on the 29th January with the weather steadily deteriorating! All told the total list of birds for the holiday was fifty-three – which shows meagre ornithological activity!

March. 5th 1954. It was a Friday evening
(77) and I left about 5.0 pm. to stay the
total for 317 weekend with Max McGarvie just N.E.
of Cavendish. Just out of Cavendish
I killed an OWLET-NIGHTJAR in my
car's radiator, which was a new bird
to Max and put me nicely on top
to start with.

March 6th [1954] – Max was working in the
morning so I wandered round close
to the house – noting with interest,
large numbers of RAINBOW LORIKEETS
together with MUSK, LITTLE and PURPLE-
CROWNED LORIKEETS – which made all
four occurring in Southern Victoria.

In the afternoon we went
into the scrub at the southern tip of
the Grampians. It was misty open
forest, swamping in parts, and near
to the ranges, the undergrowth got
much thicker. Birds of interest that
we saw this day were EMU · SACRED
KINGFISHER · WHITE-BROWED BABBLERS · BLACK-[CAPPED SITELLA]

[March 5th 1954] [BLACK] CAPPED SITELLA (probably) · MISTLETOE-BIRD.
BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER · FUSCOUS HONEYEATER ·
and YELLOW-TUFTED HONEYEATER

March 7th [1954] – was a most magnificent
(67) bird day – the outstanding one for
the whole season's birding. We went
up the highway on the Horsham route
and stopped first at a large swamp
on the right of the road, just on the
edge of the rising ground to the
east. There was not as much there
as we had hoped – we came across
a flock of CHOUGHS and heard the
LITTLE GRASS-BIRD. We also came
across a tortoise, the first native tortoise
I had ever seen. When Max
poked it, it raised its backside and
squirted him fair and square with
a vilely smelling excretion which
made me hoot with mirth. For the
rest of the day I kept to windward
of Max.

We moved on from there to

[March 7th 1954] that spot on the road to Horsham where it crosses the Glenelg River. It was a beautiful spot where we had lunch and a long snoop round. We saw AZURE KINGFISHER, DARTERS, the LITTLE EAGLE (a good find) & NANKEEN NIGHT-HERON. All told we saw fifty-three species at that spot from 12.0 noon – 4.0 pm – the same number as a week's caravanning!! That day we saw a total of sixty-seven species. We returned home in time for tea and then I made the long and tedious trip home that night.

SUMMARY 1953 – 54.

Another quiet year – two holidays – a family picnic – and a week-end with Max. All were good value but the time spent birding was very slight and a firm resolution is being made to get back to the birds the coming season.

[photo]
Cherry-tree
Lagoon.

Glenelg R. [River]

7.3.54
[photo] [photo]

29th-4th Sept 1954.
(40)

A weeks holiday in Lorne with the children at Mrs Doug's house. We had Susie with us, and for two nights, Dani [guess] Armond. It was a really good family holiday with variable weather – for the most part fine and cloudy, with one day light rain. Over an inch of rain has fallen since we have been here but fortunately most of it has been at night.

We arrived late on Saturday night. Sunday was fine and a day for the beaches. On Monday we went in the afternoon up to the She-oak Falls. On Tuesday up to Phantom Falls from Allenvale. On Wednesday morning I went for Dani [guess] and in the afternoon the rest of the family walked down the George from Allenvale, where [?] and I went to meet them at the mouth of the river. Thursday was the wet day and in the morning I took the family up to Teddy's [guess] Lookout & back via Lorne. In the afternoon the three adult females went up to the Phantom

[29th-4th Sept 1954] Falls with every intention of coming
back through the Canyon, but Dani
was not able to make the grade far past
the falls. On Friday morning we went to
the Cumberland, which was well flooded
but we managed to get quite a way
up. Julian did an amazing walk and
scramble (quite happily) for one who only
3 ½ yrs. In the afternoon Joan took
Dani back to Queenscliff – Saturday home.

Birds can almost be said to
be negligble* [negligible] – a total of 40. – less
(by far) than a few hours on the
Glenelg [River]. A pair of immature Pacific
Gulls were (I think) the first of the
species I have seen at Lorne, if not
the whole Otway Coast. FANTAIL CUCKOOS were
calling in the gullies which I was
surprised at (31.8.54). Apart from that
there was only the avifauna that one
would expect as basic at Lorne – in fact
I would put it at that figure – 40. But
it was an excellent family holiday!

25th September 1954. – The start of a
(19) holiday for just Joan and myself – motoring
to Adelaide. It was a Saturday
afternoon and we left later than we had
meant to, for Portland. It was a
fast trip and not much notice was
taken of birds – just a stop to watch
some SWAMP-HARRIERS; the only other
two observations of any interest, being
the BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE, and a family
of young SPUR-WINGED PLOVER crossing the
road. A total of a mere nineteen
birds was seen –

EASTERN SWAMPHEN	HOARY-HEADED GREBE
SILVER GULL	WHITE IBIS
WHITE EGRET	WHITE-FACED HERON
WHITE-NECKED HERON	SWAN
WHISTLING EAGLE	SWALLOW
MAGPIE LARK	NOISY MINER
RED WATTLE-BIRD	PIPIT
RAVEN	WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE

[photo] Joan sitting
in front of
the Richmond
Hotel, Portland
Sunday morning
Sept 26th. [1954]

Sept 26th (8) [?] We had been, for a short time the previous evening at Noel Learmouth's house, and while there had made arrangements to go out the next day. Consequently the Learmouth's collected us from the hotel at 10.30 and we went out the Bridgewater road and collected Cliff Beauglehole, then turned in a track on the right, which was in fact the old road from Portland to Nelson. We were joined there by the Rawlson Thompsons, recently retired to Portland and out for the day rather

[September 26th 1954] than out for birds.

My chief aim was to see
some Sitellas and if possible to
identify the species. We did in
fact hear a flock that day some
way off but we never caught sight
of it, nor did I see any sign
of the bird for the rest of the holiday!
Cliff and I went off on a short
walk and I will long remember
the sight an EASTERN SHRIKE-TIT in
a Coast Wattle – Ac sophora [Acacia sophorae] – it was
a magnificent ~~of~~ conjunction of
yellows, green and black. In fact
that day can be largely remembered
for its wild-flowers, with which
Cliff Beauglehole was well acquainted –
Ac. [Acacia] myrtifolia, the Boronias, Heaths and
Peas. We spent short walk-abouts
in various localities – the most
interesting bird being the BLACK-WINGED
CURRAWONG in the bush, and, when we
arrived back at the harbour, the

[Sept 26th 1954] BLACK-FACED CORMORANT – a bird for
which I must keep my eyes open on
our own coasts.
[photo]
Afternoon-tea
26-9-54.
L–R [left to right] – Joan, Mrs
Learmouth, Cliff
Beauglehole, Noel
Learmouth, Mrs,
and Mr Rawlson
Thompson.

BROWN THORNBILL	L. BLACK CORMORANT	L. PIED CORMORANT
CRESTED TERN	MOUNTAIN DUCK	GREY TEAL.
GOSHAWK	W-TAILED EAGLE	CRIMSON ROSELLA
PALLID CUCKOO	FANTAILED CUCKOO	HORS. BR.-CUCKOO
GREY FANTAIL	SCARLET ROBIN	YELLOW ROBIN.
NATIVE THRUSH	GOLDEN WHISTLER	B-F CUCKOO-SHRIKE
STRIATED THORNBILL	WH.-BR. SCRUB WREN	RUF. BRISTLE-BIRD
LITTLE GRASS BIRD	BLUE WREN	W-TH. TREE CREEPER
SPOTTED PARDALOTE	SILVEREYE	WH-NAPED HONEYEATER
BROWN-HEADED HON.	E. SPINEBILL	YELLOW-FACED HON.
WHITE-EARED HON.	Y.-WINGED HON.	LITTLE WATTLE-B

27th Sept We left Portland at 9.15
(51) and arrived at Mt. Gambier at 11.0, where
(77) we had morning coffee and collected
supplies for lunch. We went of course
and had a look at the lakes.
[photo]
Blue Lake
Mt. Gambier
27.9.54.

We had lunch in some mallee-
type scrub at Millicent and in a walk
afterwards, I met the HOODED ROBIN.
The afternoon we spent travelling north
up the South Australian coast, making
a detour to see Beachport and Robe – the
latter two towns remarkable in that
the country around about was heavily

[27th Sept.] covered with the Coast Wattle on
which were hundreds of SPINY-CHEEKED
HONEYEATERS and SINGING HONEYEATERS,
We were also interested to note no
less than four dead wombats by the
road between the two towns.
We had afternoon tea at Robe
and proceeded on in good time to
Kingston, where I saw the first WILLIE-
WAGTAIL of the trip.

CASPIAN TERN	COMMON BRONZEWING
MOORHEN	COOT
MARSH TERN	BANDED PLOVER.
WH-H. STILT	SH-TAILED SANDPIPER
BLACK DUCK	BROWN HAWK
NANKEEN KESTREL	KOOKABURRA
CHAT	YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL
DUSKY WOODSWALLOW	TAWNY-CR. HONEYEATER
RED-BROWED FINCH	GREY-BUTCHER-BIRD

28th Sept – I was up at 5.30 in
(65) the morning and went for the
(94) long walk out to the end of the pier

[photo]

Hotel –

Kingston. S.A. [South Australia]

28.9.54

[photo]

Jetty –

Kingston S.A. [South Australia]

28.9.54

[28th Sept.] The jetty was 2/3 of a mile in length so by the time I had returned and also had a look round a nearby swamp, I was ready for my breakfast.

We left Kingston at 9.0, having high hopes for the Coorong, past which we were to travel, most of the day. At first the Coorong was a stretch of shallow water the edges of which were thickly grown with melaleuca scrub. At the first major stop, we met the BANDED STILT – thousands upon thousands of them – in almost unbelievable numbers in huge white masses covering the water. Here too, in the scrub, was the WHITE-BROWED BABBLER. Further north the water was much more extensive and deeper, changing the character completely. The birds here were not as numerous or interesting – the main ones being the GREEN SHANK and the BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. On the whole, I

[28th Sept.] must say I was disappointed with
the Coorong.
At the other end of the Coorong (we
had had lunch in a roadhouse at
Wood's Well) was Meningie. From there
we drove on without much stopping, through
Tailem Bend, to Murray Bridge (a beer)
and so into the Lofty Ranges, visiting
Mt. [Mount] Lofty where the ADELAIDE ROSELLA was
heard. We arrived at our hotel
the SOUTH AUSTRALIA at 5.30

MUSK DUCK	CRESTED PIGEON	BL-T NATIVE HEN
CRESTED GREBE	PELICAN	FAIRY TERN
R-CAPPED DOTTEREL	AVOCET	LITTLE STINT.
S-NECKED IBIS	Y-B SPOONBILL	BROWN SONGLARK.

29.9.54. In the morning I paid a visit
(24) to Herb Condon at the Museum and
(97) spent a little time going over the Sitellas.
In the afternoon we had a look about
the National Park where I came on the
WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER and LITTLE LORRIKEET.
We cut across to the coast south of

[29.9.54] Adelaide and went up the coast to Port Adelaide, haring the REED-WARBLER when we crossed the Torrens.

30th Sept [1954] We went south down the coast,
([?]) looking in at the beach resorts. At
([?]) Noarlunga I spotted a Black-capped
Dotterell's nest with two eggs. We had
beer and sandwiches before eventually
reaching C. [Cape] Jervis in the early afternoon.
From there we travelled east on
the Range Rd to Victor Harbour where
we had a walk round Granite Is.
Then onto Goolwa where we saw
one of the large barges at the mouth
of the Murray R. with its large population
of cormorants and pelicans. Then
home again arriving after dark, to see
Adelaide lit up below us as we came
came over the ranges.

BLACK CORMORANT	PIED CORMORANT	BL.-FA. DOTTEREL
HARDHEAD	BRUSH BRONZEWING	P-CR. LORRIKEET
GALAH	BL-WINGED PARROT	FAIRY MARTIN
STRIATED PARD.	RED-BACKED PARROT	_____

1st October 1954. Was spent in Adelaide. We paid a visit to the zoo and were most impressed with the birds. I was particularly keen to see the Blue-winged and Elegant together for comparison, and they were the only two Neophema which had returned to the shade of their box!. We also visited the Botanical Gardens, the National Gallery, and a wild-flower exhibition.

2nd October [1954] We set off from Adelaide on
(57) our long journey home. North through
(26) [photo]

Murray R. at
Blanche Town

– downstream

[1st October 1954] Gawler, into the Barossa Valley which we found most interesting, to Blanche Town – dry and arid. There we had lunch by the Murray.
[photo]

Blanche-Town

Murray R. [River] – up. stream.

After crossing the Murray by ferry it was not very far to Waikerie, most of the way through mallee in which I spent a lot of time and where my two best finds were BLUE-WHITE WREN & CH. QUAIL-THRUSH.

SACRED KINGFISHER	FORK-T. KITE	WHITE COCKATOO	
RED-KNEED DOTTEREL	YELLOW ROSELLLA	B-BACKED MAGPIE	
NANKEEN NIGHT HERON	BROWN TREE-CREEPER	DUSKY MINER	
BROWN WEEBILL	YELLOW-PLUMED HON.	E. WHITEFACE	
JACKY WINTER	LITTLE THORNBILL	CR. BELLBIRD	PEACEFUL DOVE

3rd. October [1954] (66) (142)

I was up at 5.30 and had an hour or so in the mallee before breakfast. We passed through mallee to Kingston-on-Murray where again we crossed the river by punt. There was much less mallee from there to Renmark, being mainly irrigation round Barmerah and Berri.

However after crossing the bridge over the Murray just beyond Renmark we got into the mallee again – 90 miles of it. We had lunch besides the road where we frightened an EMU. I spent quite a time there and at many spots between our lunching place and Mildura – mallee or buloak – belar parkland. Norm Favalaro's at night.

RUFOUS SONGLARK	MULGA PARROT	BLUE-BONNET
CH-CR. BABBLER	CORELLA	ROYAL SPOONBILL
DARTER	TREE-MARTIN	NOISY FRIAR-BIRD
YELLOW-THROATED MINER	BLACK-BACKED WREN	MASKED W-SWALLOW
RING-N. PARROT	CHOUGH	WHITE-BR TR-CREEPER

4th. October. We were a bit late leaving
(67) Mildura (10.30) and made straight
for Hattah. I left Joan sun-bathing
(52) under the red-gums by the lake and
did a nostalgic tour of our old
haunts, first along the lake for a while
then circling back through the belar
country. After lunch I did a
small walk through the mallee but
it was too hot and all was quiet.
So we left that spot at 3.30 and went
on to Robinvale. I went down
the Chalker Creek track for a few miles
and had a walk in the iron-bark
forest. There was very much
less water than there had been
before, and on this walk. I never
got in to the lakes. We arrived at
Robinvale at 5.45.

REGENT PARROT	RAINBOW BIRD	CH-T. THORNBILL
WH-BR. W-SWALLOW	RED-CAPPED ROBIN	LITTLE GREBE
PURPLE-B. WREN	RUFOUS WHISTLER	BLUE-FACED HERON

(?) SPOTTED HARRIER.

5th October [1954]. We were off from
(61) Robinvale fairly early, having
crossed the bridge onto the N.S.W [New South Wales]
(156) side to have a look at the river
there. I had one stop in
ironbark and red-gum forest in the
morning where I came on the LITTLE
FRIAR-BIRD and the GOLDEN BRONZE-CUCKOO.
We had lunch at Nyah on
the banks of the Murray – see photo –
[photo] and
arrived at Kerang at
2.15, where
we booked
in. I was
lucky enough
to contact
a Mr. Wallace
with whom
I went out
for the rest of that afternoon. He showed

[5th. Oct 1954] We were of *[off] to the lakes and swamps
for which the district is noted. On
these I saw the WOOD-DUCK and the
PINK-EARED DUCK. He showed me
the breeding place of the ibis but did
not seem to know of the egrets rookery
which I would very much like to
have seen.
6th October – up at 5.30 and back
(59) to the ibis rookery. But there was
(159) not much to be seen – it is a
little too inaccessible without a boat.
[photo]
Lagoon [guess] &
swamp –
site of
this rookery

6.10.54

Kerang

[6th October 1954] We were off at 9.0 and made a fairly swift journey home, due south. I had a walk about Dunolly where I saw the YELLOW-TUFTED HONEYEATER, DIAMOND FINCH, and RESTLESS FLYCATCHER. We bought some sand wiches at Ballarat and had lunch some 17 miles further on. But the bush was very quiet – no Sitellas! And home at 3.0 pm, the end of the holiday.

Though it was only meant to be a family holiday, with birds taking a second place, it was in fact very successful orinthologically. I met Condon and Favaloro and tolled [guess] up a list of 166 (incl. 7 introduced species) – a very large total for the slam-on-the-brakes type of bird-watching. Four days saw 60 birds and another four over 50. A very good holiday.

6th November 1954 A few days after returning
[margin](44)[/margin]from our holiday I was completely bowled
over by a pneumonia and today
I left on my week's solitary convalescence
at the Richmond Hotel Portland.
I left home straight after lunch
and made my first stop at the Black
Swamp, Stoneyford. I had seen some
WHITE IBIS ~~[?]~~ perched in on tree and it
was with faint hopes of their nesting
that I went to investigate. No luck
as far as that was concerned but with
them, was one STRAW-NECKED IBIS and
two YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILLS. Chattering
heavily was a SACRED KINGFISHER, and
over the SWAMP was a GOSHAWK and a
SWAMP HARRIER. On the swamp itself
were only SWANS. SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS,
MOUNTAIN DUCK and EASTERN SWAMPHEN.
The next visit was to L.[Lake]
Purrumbeet *[Purrumbete] on the advise of Bruce Amos
who had camped there last February

[6th November 1954] with David Morgan [guess]. Bruce had seen
both Marsh and Spotless Crakes and had
given me directions and a sketch –
map of where they were. The spot I
found easily enough and settled
myself, standing quietly in the sodden
ground, near to the carex [guess] tussocks.
Half-an-hours stillness produced no
results at all and that was all
the time I could afford. On the
lake itself were COOT, MUSK DUCK, HOARY-
HEADED GREBE and CRESTED GREBE.
In the surrounding grass were many
GOLDEN-HEADED FANTAIL-WARBLERS. Standing
there I heard the three CUCKOOS – PALLID,
FAN-TAILED and GOLDEN BRONZE-.
Then on, not very fast to
Portland. For the whole trip, while
travelling I saw. – SPARROW, STARLING,
BLACKBIRD, GOLDFINCH, SKYLARK, DUSKY
MOORHEN, SILVER GULL, BROWN HAWK, WHITE-FACED
HERON, WHITE-NECKED HERON, GALAH, WHITE

[6th November 1954] CUCKATOO, BLUE-WINGED PARROT, KOOKABURRA, SWALLOW, FAIRY MARTIN, MAGPIE-LARK, BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE, WHITE-FRONTED CHAT, LITTLE GRASS-BIRD, STRIATED FIELD-WREN, PIPIT, RAVEN MAGPIE, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL – [?] SONGLARK: I arrived at the Richmond at 5:45, exactly 6 weeks after Joan and I had booked in on our way to Adelaide!

7th November Wet and windy. A walk to the end of the pier in the morning

(49) when three CORMORANTS – PIED, BLACK-FACED and LITTLE BLACK were seen on the baths, and a YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER in the streets.

Two hours sleep after dinner + then a walk out to the end of the breakwater what I had a beautiful view of a CRESTED TERN. Home and a bath before tea – lovely life!

8th November – A grey day with a south-

(66) easterly wind and a threat of rain. I went off in the car to the south on

[November 8th 1954] the C.Nelson road. The country was
health land and a coastal scrub of
melaleuca, wattle and eucalypt, all
stunted and blown flat. I explored a
few sandy tracks and eventually
ended up at the light-house. The
birds met were the RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD,
TAWNY HONEYEATER and SINGING HONEYEATERS BL W. Currawongs.
I came back to Portland and set
off on another southerly road, but to
the east of the C. Nelson Road. The
country was much the same so I
returned and found a small patch of
light bush a few acres in extent, just
before reaching the town. I spent
nearly an hour here, strolling through
it and added to the list WILLIE-WAGTAIL,
NATIVE THRUSH, SILVEREYE, BLUE WREN, RED
WATTLE-BIRD, GREY FANTAIL, WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER
STRIATED THORNBILL and GOLDEN WHISTLER + GREY TERN.
I called at the museum on
my way back and saw a most

[November 8th 1954] extraordinary collection of junk – mostly shells, with a few cases of stuffed birds, unlabelled, Not worth it, but I suppose I could scarcely <u>not</u> have gone while I was here.

At 4.0 I took the car out beyond the golf-links but it was windy with drizzling rain and all I saw was a BRUSH BRONZEWING. I forgot to say, by the way that in the morning I had seen a BLACK CORMORANT over the town.

9th November [1954] After breakfast I went for a walk along the pier. It was a grey day with a cold southerly blowing and the water was breaking over the [?] benches – so move them. From the end of the pier I saw, far out to sea, a GANNET and several ALBATROSSES.

At 11.0 I drove out on the Bridgewater road to Trewalla and there turned north. I made a few brief stops, during which I saw the EASTERN

[9th. November 1954] [EASTERN] SPINEBILL, BROWN THORNBILL, CRIMSON ROSELLA,
SCARLET ROBIN and DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW.
The most thing however was a tortoise
walking along the road – smelly [guess] things.
I returned home by 12.0 in drizzling
driving rain which looks as if it has
set in for the rest of the day.
Noel Learmouth looked in in the
afternoon and we had a fine chat.
November 10th. A much better day, clear
up well during the afternoon. After
T(81) breakfast I drove down the tracks I
(40) had followed two days previously but
saw nothing new – a Blue-winged
Parrot being the only bird of interest I
called out to Learmouth for morning-tea
and examined his beach-washed
specimens and admired his roses, which
were superb.
After lunch, Noel called for me,
and we drove a few miles to the east
of the town and did some beach-combing,

[November 10th 1954] We covered about a mile of beach and in that distance, found 50 SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS, 4 FAIRY PRIONS, 3 FAIRY PENGUINS, one THICK-BILLED PENGUIN, one FLUTTERING SHEARWATER, one WHITE-HEADED PETREL and a STORM-PETREL, so far not identified. The last four were first-rate and important finds and of course, [crossed out] Noel was delighted. We also saw a flock of about 40 waders, which are provisionally identified as LITTLE STINTS.

In the evening I attended the monthly Portland Naturalists Society's meeting. The minutes were concerned with the preservation of a sanctuary and the possible establishment of a quarterly publication. Then specimens were called for, some of which were interesting. Noel brought his beach-washed specimens – the "Storm-Petrel" of the ~~evening~~ afternoon was identified as a DIVING-PETREL and

[November 10th 1954] the Little Stints were indubitably so! Finally
the president, Ossie Lightbody showed some
colour slides, most of which confirmed
his statement that he was a beginner,
but he had one superb one of
Bridgwater Bay.
So ended the day – memorable
for its beach-combing which added at
least two New Birds and, even if
I have notes on the other two, it is
pretty sure that I at last met them
for the first time!

November 11th. [1954] – dawned beautifully fine.

T(93) Before breakfast I went a couple of
hundred yards along the beach and

(47) found 5 Mutton-birds.

Then off to Nelson for the day.
I made a slow trip via the Princes
Highway stopping at odd intervals to
look and listen, and adding to the list
JACKIE WINTER, YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER,
WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN, WHITE-EARED [HONEYEATER]

[November 11th 1954] [WHITE-EARED] HONEYEATER, YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO and YELLOW ROBIN. The bush by the Glenelg is very fine though not, by the road, very dense. It should make a wonderful National Park.

There is very little at Nelson to see, and after a milk shake I went on the beach track where Blue-winged Parrots were very common and I could see, on an island in the river, four ~~Pelica~~ PELICANS, and a flock of MARSH T.

I settled myself in the sand-dunes and then walked about ½ mile up the beach finding 10 Mutton Birds only. Back for beer and sandwiches after which I rather unwisely went to sleep on my back in the sun, clad only in bathing trunks. As a result I am now fairly tingling! I made another short beach walk in the other direction finding 5 more Mutton-birds only. A pair of HOODED DOTTEREL were

[November 11th 1954] on the beach. The weather was
deteriorating with a strong N-W
wind & high cloud. So I packed
up and left. I in the scrub covering
the sand dunes were LITTLE WATTLE-BIRDS
and SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER. I
returned the way I had come, seeing
in the Glenelg forest a COMMON BRONZEWING.

November 12th. [1954] – a clear day with a very strong
T westerly wind and occasional showers. I
(102) drove out to the Bridgewater Lakes and the
(43) sand-dunes to the west were half-hidden
in blown sand. I saw a pair of BUDGERIGAR
there feeding by the side of the road, and
having great difficulty managing with
the wind. Then to Bridgewater Bay which
was looking beautiful, particularly the
shadows of clouds racing across the
headland. Then out to the Blowholes
which were not functioning as such,
but a fine sea was running [guess]. On
the way back I saw a WEDGE-TAILED [EAGLE]

[November 12th 1954] [WEDGE-TAILED] EAGLE and a GREENFINCH.

Then into the old Nelson track where I stepped in the shelter of Bat Ridge where we had had lunch on our holiday. It was sheltered there but no birds were seen, though I wandered round with the rifle, hopefully looking for Sittellas.

After lunch (which I had had at Bat Ridge) Noel Learmouth called for me and we went first to the swamp by the Freezing Works. There we found MANED GOOSE & CHESTNUT TEAL & L. PIED CORMORANT. Then north a few miles to the Woolwash, a site on a stream, open dairy country on one side and the thickly wooded slopes of Mt Clay on the other. I saw the EASTERN ROSELLA, WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER and a nest of the RED-BROWED FINCH. Not much else was seen before returning, going by way of a Goshawks nest on which could be seen, three well grown young.

Nov. 13th [1954]
T (104)

Early next morning I left for
home and did a fast run – picking
up two species – NOISY MINER + WHISTLING
EAGLE.
That is a very good total for a
"quiet week", but the memorable
occasion in it was the beachcombing
which was quite a new experience.

February 1955 9th–16th

We went on a family
holiday, caravanning at Bridgewater
Bay with all four children. It
was strictly family, but we did
go in and visit Noel Learmouth
on one occasion. Points of
interest were flocks of RED WATTLE-
BIRDS of up to 50 by Bats Ridge,
a pair of HOODED DOTTERELL with
two immature on sandy beach and
one BLUE-WINGED PARROT. Never, I think
have I had less to say, ornithologically
on a weeks holiday in the countryside!

26th March 1955 I went on a visit to

(6) Max McGarvie – just a year after my previous visit. I had travelled up on the previous (Friday) night and had a long chat with Max & Helen before retiring. In the morning I drove into Cavendish for a refill of petrol and to get a few things for Helen and, up to lunch had seen the following – WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE, WHISTLING EAGLE, BROWN HAWK, MUSK LORIKEET, WHITE COCKATOO, EASTERN ROSELLA, RED-BACKED PARROT, KOOKABURRA, SWALLOW, TREE-MARTIN, WILLIE WAGTAIL, RESTLESS FLYCATCHER, BROWN THORNBILL, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL, BLUE WREN, MAGPIE-LARK, MAGPIE, YELLOW-TUFTED HONEYEATER, WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER, NOISY MINER, PIPIT, RAVEN and GOLDFINCH.

After lunch we went off on the same track we had gone on 6.3.54 at the foot of the western slopes and then in a gate in to the right till we found a

[26th March 1955] good spot to camp for the night. This brought us in to quite different country and to new birds too – SWAMPHEN, PURPLE-CROWNED LORIKEET, CRIMSON ROSELLA, JACKY WINTER, SCARLET ROBIN, GREY FANTAIL, BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE, WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN, DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW, GRAY THRUSH, YELLOW ROBIN, WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER, BROWN TREE-CREEPER, SILVEREYE, STRIATED PARDALOTE, SPOTTED PARDALOTE, WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER, EASTERN SPINEBILL, FUSCOUS HONEYEATER, YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER, YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER, RED WATTLE-BIRD, RED-BROWED FINCH, CHOUGH, GREY CURRAWONG, PIED CURRAWONG, BLACKBIRD, BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL, RUFOUS WHISTLER, BUFF-TAILED THORNBILL and LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD.

When we had got our camp fixed up, we set off up the "first spring", i.e. the Southernmost stream flowing west off the slopes of the mountains. We kept on the western bank until near the top when we

[26th March 1955] crossed and went right over the source and down again on the north slope – keeping out to the north on more heathy country on our return to the camp which we reached about 5.30 pm. Birds seen on this part – GANG-GANGS, HYLACOLA, MOUNTAIN THRUSH, EMU-WREN, GOLDEN WHISTLER, TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER, CRESCENT HONEYEATER, STRIATED FIELD-WREN & BLACKBIRD.

27th March [1955] The next morning we were a
(8) little lazy and not on the move before 9.0 am. We headed north over a
71 shoulder of heathland to the "second-spring" and followed it eastwards up into the mountains. Though we kept up from the melaleuca thickets along the stream itself, the going was pretty rough, particularly as we had to get through such thickets to cross small tributaries. We worked our way along the stream which at first turned south,

[27th March 1955] and then east again until we climbed up onto a ledge over which the water fell in rapids and where we disturbed three mighty Wedge-tailed Eagles. There we had lunch and, with pack considerably lightened set off down stream on the right (northern) bank.

Again we had to push across tributaries, and on the whole the going was rougher on the slopes that did not get so much sun. At one spot we stopped and admired two Eagles, perched on rocks nearly a thousand feet above us. Behind and above them, flew a flock of small birds, just visible with glasses. Max said 'I wonder what they are?' to which I said "Sitellas, of course". The flock swooped down the hillside and very kindly flew into the trees around us. Max's "By God, they are

[27th March 1955] Sitellas was good to hear!! They were very definitely BLACK-CAPPED SITELLAS. The going was very rough and at one stage, Max who was in front of me staggered backwards. I gave him what I thought was a helpful push, to be answered with an irate yell, for he was backing from a large snake – our fourth for the day.

We had come well down the stream before we spotted the track below us, that Max had found on a previous occasion. We dropped thankfully down onto it and to easier walking. We walked upstream again to the weir which the track served, rested and then set off down the track at about 3.30. The track was easy walking, but led gradually to the north to skirt a large swamp on which was a WHITE-FACED HERON.

[27th March 1955] By the time we had got past the
swamp we were well to the north
of our camp so we turned south
through red-gum country, with
scattered melaleuca thickets and heath.
We were well out in our reckoning
for we walked and walked and
seemed to get nowhere. At long
last we picked up a track which we
recognized as that on which we called
the "minnow-stream"(p 78). Though
we picked up the track a full two miles
from the "minnow-stream" (which was the
'second-spring' just above the swamp) we
still had over a mile to go to our
camp. On this last stretch we saw
the HOODED ROBIN and a pair of EMUS
with six young. We got back to the
car at 6.0 pm – quite exhausted,
having probably done 15 miles for
the day, half of it at least since [guess]

[27th March 1955] leaving the weir. When we got home
we were too tired to eat – an
experience I have rarely had –
actually it would probably be called
exhaustion! A Boobook OWL called
just before I left on my 135 mile
drive home.
It was a magnificent week-end,
the exploration being just as much fun
as the birds or the botany in which
Max has become very interested [MAP p. 126]

17th April 1955 A Sunday. I went out
with Bill and Joan Middleton, who are
now living at Forest. It was a
bad day for birds – very windy.
Very little was seen and a
complete list was not kept. We went
along Barry's [guess] Road, we turned south
along each access road. The first
one brought us out near Burtons
Lookout, the second to a patch of

[17th April 1955] burnt scrub, the Carlisle Rd and
Tomahawk Creek roads we ignored
and went on through Irrewillipe
on the Bungador road. Then up the
east – west Forests Commission road as
far as we could get, where we
stopped for lunch. We turned back
a bit and came out at Irrewillipe,
then reached the FC [Forest Commission] road again on the
Carlisle Road and so eastward, with
the occasional stop to Burton's \lookout
and leave about 3.30.

The only birds of interest
were DUSKY WOODSWALLOWS and
BUFF-TAILED THORNBILLS. But it was
good to get out with Bill again
and meet Joan.

30th April 1955 We set off again to Max &
the Grampians. This time I took
Bob and Bill Middleton and we
left at about 9.30 on Saturday
(40) morning, going by Mortlake,

[30th April 1955] Penhurst and Dunkeld. We saw the
usual birds of the Western District –
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, BROWN HAWK, EASTERN
ROSELLA and just outside Caramut [guess]
a flock of about 70 Corellas.

We arrived about lunch time
and after our meal, set off down
the track we had been on five weeks
previously. At one stage we had
been planning to get up to the ledge
where we had had lunch previously
and camp the night there, but
we got a bit weak-minded about
it and decided to camp in
comparative comfort by the car. So
we went instead to the end of the
track to the "minnow-pool".

We walked on a bit and
got into a good area for birds –
EMU (flock of 11). WHISTLING EAGLE, WEDGE-
TAILED EAGLE. GANG-GANGS, CRIMSON
ROSELLAS, KOOKABURRA, SWALLOW, TREE-MARTIN,

[30th April 1955] JACKY WINTER, GRAY FANTAIL, WILLIE-WAGTAIL, STRIATED THORNBILL, WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN, BLUE-WREN, DUSKY-WOODSWALLOW, MAGPIE LARK, GRAY THRUSH, MAGPIE, YELLOW ROBIN, WHITE-BROWED TREECREEPER, SILVEREYE, WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER, EASTERN SPINEBILL, YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER, YELLOW-TUFTED HONEYEATER, YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER, NOISY MINER, PIPIT, LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD, RED-BROWED FINCH, RAVEN, GREY CURRAWONG, PIED CURRAWONG, BLACK BIRD & FLAME ROBIN.

Considerable excitement was caused, shortly after we had stopped, by my seeing a BLACK-CHINNED HONEYEATER – which was a "new-bird" for all three ornithologists present. We were in the centre of a flock and had quite a good look at them for some time. We moved the car on right up to the spring and made ourselves a good fine and

[30th April 1955] turned in fairly comfortably at about 8.0 pm.

May 1st 1955 We all woke at 5.45 – it had been a mild night fortunately, and we were to be blessed with the perfect autumn day – cloudless, windless and mild. We got away from camp fairly early and by crossing the stream and 150 yards or so of heath we came onto the track which had previously led Max and I so far astray. We turned right and walked up stream to the weir (9.30) and then on the route we took previously to the lunch-time ledge (where we had thought of camping) at 10.30. After a beer we left our packs and walked up the stream, eastwards, on the south bank. It became almost gorge-like in parts and we eventually climbed to a rocky outcrop and surveyed our position. We were I suppose 2/3 of

(?)

T

(51)

[May 1st. 1955] the way up the stream, which there was
~~[?]~~ same way north of us and we
were more than half way up one
of those long western slopes so common
to the Grampians. We turned back
to the ledge for lunch.

Afterwards we returned northward
to the eastern slopes of the valley which
contained the weir. We pushed up
this northward until it soon became
clear we could never get to the
top of it, where we plunged down
into the gully. And there we got
into the thickest scrub I have ever
been in. It took us an hour to
do roughly ¼ mile down to the weir.
Half-way we rested and watched the
magnificent sight of 4 Wedge-tailed
Eagles soaring in a thermal 1000' [feet]
above us. From the weir we went
slowly homeward, arriving at 5.30. The
birds added to the list that day were

[May 1st. 1955] SCARLET ROBIN, HYLACOLA, MOUNTAIN THRUSH, BROWN THORNBILL, EMU-WREN, GOLDEN WHISTLER, BLACK-CAPPED SITELLA, STRIATED PARDALOTE, TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER, CRESCENT HONEYEATER and MISTLETOE-BIRD.

We wandered round the camp for an hour before returning to a meal and the long trek home. We were favoured with superb weather, had a good, long, rough tramp and picked up a new-bird.

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[FOLD OUT – MAP]

TASMANIAN CAMP-OUT OCT 1955

14-10-55 Joan and I flew over on the midday plane, were we met by Sam Bilson, collected [guess] a 1955 Holden line-car at it / mile [guess] and ensconced ourselves at Wrest Point. The afternoon there was a civic reception well done, without the unconscious humour usually associated with it. In the evening Sam took up out to dinner at the Beach Hotel. No birds to report with the exception of the NATIVE HEN at Devenport Aerodrome.

15.10.55 (Saturday) We went in the morning up Mt Wellington where there was of course a magnificent view, but also a biting wind. On the mountain were a BLACK CURRAWONG and a PEREGRINE FALCON. We had morning coffee at Fern Tree where we went up a gully, saw the PINK ROBIN, GOLDEN WHISTLER and BROWN SCRUB-WREN and where a leech was found climbing Joan's sock. Our descent down the gully was

[15.10.55] much more rapid! Then across to Huonville
where we had lunch, past orchards in
flower which were the first of many
we saw throughout the state. Then we
went down the east shores of the Huon
Estuary, to Cygnet, and on, following
the coast closely all the way round
the peninsular until we turned north
on the western shore of the D'Entrecastaux
Channel. At Middleton I saw my
first YELLOW-THROATED HONEYEATER. So
through Kingston back to Hobart – a
delightful trip of exactly 100 miles.

16.10.55 (Sunday). We prevailed upon Sam
to take us in car (thereby saving a
lot of money) up the Derwent Valley.
We had a climb at the Bush Sun,
New Norfolk and on to the Mt Field
National Park via Macquarie Plains.
At the Russell Falls we met the rest of
the party which went on up the
mountain as we went to the falls
themselves and which were the most

[16.10.55] Impressive I have so far seen in Australia. We then went up the mount [mountain] – it was cold with a light drizzly rain and we had our lunch (an inadequate amount of sandwiches) half way up. At the top it was snowing and blowing hard and we had the most perfect walk round Lake Dobson, in thick snow.

We returned (without ever catching up with the main party again) through. Plenty, and we visited the Hatcheries. Then by the same route home. Birds of the day were the BLACK CURRAWONG and EWING'S THORNBILL on Mt Field, CHESTNUT TEAL and CASPIAN TEAL on the Derwent. I was also surprised to see a PACIFIC GULL up above New Norfolk. At New Norfolk we had afternoon tea at the Sun full of antiques and went through their fantastic honeymoon cottage.

17th Oct [1955] – Monday – I flew for the day to Melbourne for Uncle Geoff's funeral
and had an atrocious trip back
where I was as sick as a cat!

18th (Tuesday). We left Hobart and set
[October 1955] off north – east past Cambridge Airfield
passed through ~~Sorrel~~ Sorrell and then
made east and south to Dunally, the
narrow isthmus connecting the Forestier
Peninsular. Across that peninsular
to Eaglehawk Neck where we had lunch
by the Tasman Arch. From that part
of the coast, there is, stretching south
a large bay which was packed with
MUTTON BIRDS. Dark masses of them
were flowing in all directions as the
afternoon ruffled the sea, as well as
a huge and steady stream making
north off the coast. Then on to
the Arthur Hotel at Port Arthur, where
we spent the rest of the afternoon
walking round the ruins. In the
evening there was a meeting at which

[18th October 1955] branch reports were read which I
attended while Joan spent a frightful
evening in the lounge where Patricia,
a mentally odd lass, created havoc.

19th (Wednesday) After breakfast we went
[October 2955] for a short walk during which I saw
the DUSKY ROBIN and BEAUTIFUL FIRETAILS
and heard the SPOTTED PARDALOTE.
Then we spent the day at Eaglehawk
Neck – the morning at the Arch and
Blowhole and the afternoon walking
along the beach to the Lufra Hotel where
Joan, Hugh Wilson & I refreshed
ourselves copiously of beer. I thought
nothing of the brisk 35 min [minute] walk back
for the car and was a bit shaken
to find it was exactly the same
distance as home to hospital! The
MUTTON-BIRDS were not so numerous today
but we saw many ALBATROSSES, a pair
of PIED OYSTER CATCHERS and many BRUSH
WATTLE-BIRDS. I was glad too, to meet
again the BLACK-FACED CORMORANTS.

20th (Thursday) [October 1955] was by far the most successful bird-day of the Camp-Out. We went over to the Coal Mines, through Nubeena on the north-west part of the peninsular. In the northern bay there was a grand sight of a large flock of GANNETS diving into a school of fish. The country was well wooded with light undergrowth and there were BLACK-HEADED HONEYEATERS, SWIFT PARROT, SEA-EAGLE AND YELLOW WATTLE-BIRDS. On route I had heard the OLIVE WHISTLER and we came across an echidna which amused us with its burrowing, and a dead kangaroo-rat.

I had a good look there at the CLINKING CURRAWONG and feel sure it is the bird that is puzzling us in the Otways. Then someone found the FORTY-SPOTTED PARDALOTE nesting which was a great find. Michael Sharland had only seen

[20th October 1955] it once before and it had been some
25 years since its nest had been
found. I had a very good
view of the little greenish bird.
In the evening we had a social
evening at which Joan distinguished
herself by answering more questions
in the quiz than any of the 'so-called
ornithologists!

21st (Friday) Our last day in camp and a
[October 1955] quiet one. In the morning we went
round the beach to Stewart's Bay. We
found a snake trying to eat a
small possum. The head was
covered with saliva but had been
ejected when it stuck at the
shoulders. The snake was trying
to get one of the hind legs down
when we found it. Even touching
its tail did no more than make
it twitch. However it died rapidly
when I whanged it! At the
Bay I saw a family of STRONG-[BILLED HONEYEATERS]

[21st October 1955] [STRONG]-BILLED HONEYEATERS, the young with no tails but flying. After lunch we read for a while on a rug on the lawn and then drove out to Safety Cove and Remarkable Cave – the latter a gloomy and depressing hole in the earth, connected with the sea by a large tunnel. In the evening I am sitting writing this and planning the next stage of our holiday motoring round Tasmania.

22nd. (Saturday) We set off from Port Arthur
[October 1955] at 8.45, having said our good-byes and Joan, unfortunately with the beginnings of a cold. By Dunally I saw a SEA-EAGLE, a pair of WEDGE-TAILED EAGLES and a BLUE-WINGED PARROT. Instead of following the Arthur Highway we kept north, past Marion Bay and got onto the Ragged Tier at Bream Creek, following it round to Killevie whence we turned north through Nugent to Buckland. I noticed the car was swaying just before

[23rd October 1955] we got in and the rear tyre was almost flat when I pulled up at the garage. While that was being repaired, we paid a visit to the church and graveyard with some choice inscriptions + had a cup of tea by which time the car was ready.

A little way out of Buckland we came across the first of two echidnas of which we had good views of normal behaviour. At the same time I could hear YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOOS. At Swansea we had a milk-shake, bought sandwiches and fruit which we ate at a spot favoured by fisherman who were there in large numbers. Shortly after I stopped to inspect a patch of bush in which I found a BROWN HAWK'S nest with 3 eggs. A bough broke as I was climbing down and I bent my thumb severely backwards. Then after

[22nd October 1955] waiting a while till the hawk returned. I then rapidly put my glasses up, and in doing so threw a bit of bark in my eye and a biting ant down my shirt – I was almost speechless.

So on towards Coles Bay. I paused at Moulting Lagoon where there were hundreds of SWANS with broods of small cygnets. In one case a pair had five young swimming beside them with another perched on one of the parents backs happily preening. We reached the Chateau at Coles Bay about 5.0 pm, were shown our chalet and subsided thankfully into comfort. Joan feels lousy and, as it is such a lovely spot, it is possible we may spend more that one night here.

23rd. (Sunday) I woke early and was up and

[October 1955] out at six. I walked round ~~the~~ behind the Chateau and climbed one of the

[23rd October 1955] smaller tors from which I had a very good view of the layout. I had a good look at an Ewing's Thornbill and saw also a SEA-EAGLE. Joan woke late – still doped with Seconal – but feeling much better.

After breakfast, we walked back to the Fisheries where they are going to build a cub-house and chalets. Then we attacked Mt Amos. Two-thirds way up Joan gave out, which, with her cold, was very wise. I went on up: the top was a boggy patch surrounded by granite tors, with no indication which was the best. I went up two and got a partial view of Wineglass Bay and a magnificent view south down the coast.

After lunch I slept. After a cup of tea at 4.0 pm. we went off by car to Sleepy Beach, where the rock colourings were magnificent and we watched a strong off-shore wind come down the cliffs and explode.

[23rd October 1955] on the sea as the 'ruffling' of the surface scattered in all directions.

24th (Monday). [October 1955] We left Coles Bay just before 9.30 am and instead of proceeding up the east coast as we had planned, turned west onto the Campbell Town road. Just as we got to the turn off the rain came down and continued solidly churning [guess] the forty odd miles through stony, uninteresting bush. At one pause in the rain I went a little way off the road and was attracted by a high, repeated piping call, which being followed up, proved to come from a SPOTTED QUAIL-THRUSH. Good views of the CLINKING CURRAWONG convinced me more than ever that it is the bird we have in the Otways. Around L. [Lake] Leake we began to see the other (Deloraine) side of Launceston.

We had lunch at Campbell Town and then sped rapidly to Launceston,

[(24th October 1955] arriving about 2.0 pm. We booked
in at the Metropole, I left the car in
to be serviced and we set off by
bus. We walked from the Basin up
the gorge to the gardens which were
intelligently planted with azaleas and
maples. A walk up a very steep road
and bus back to the Museum and
from there to the hotel. After
dinner we went to the flat of Heather
Jones, zoologist at the Museum, who was
on the camp out where we drank
beer and chatted till 10.0 pm.

25th (Tuesday) It was a windy clear day
[October 1955] when we started off from Launceston
at 9.0 am and headed west. The
thirty-mile trip through rolling country,
green with lush pastures and given
character by hawthorn hedges, poplars
and other English trees in which
were half-hidden old stone groves [guess]
passed far too quickly. We finished
our provisioning at Deloraine and

[25th October 1955] turned onto the Lake Highway. Then the
weather turned against us, teeming rainstorms
with only brief intervals between, We
climbed rapidly onto the plateau where
the rain turned to driving snow. We
had morning tea at Breona during a
brief interval from snowing, but
virtually the visibility was nil which
was a great pity with such good
scenery around us. A last fill of
petrol at Bronte and so to Lake
St Clair where it has, since we
arrived at 2.0 pm, been raining, hailing
or, as it is now, snowing heavily. But
there is no wind, and it is very peaceful
and private and we are both very
happy. The wallabies (many with young)
and pademelons are extremely tame and
I have photos of them being fed by
Joan. They are a delight and
have thrilled Joan so much that they
have made this part of the trip quite worthwhile.

26th (Wednesday). [October 1955]

We spent the morning at L. St. Claire. The weather had cleared up considerably and through there was cloud on the surrounding peaks, we were not wet and there was no wind. I pottered round for a while and then we walked round the lake. Our first track was the lake's edge track for a way where I had a beautiful view of a Ewing's Thornbill, which up the base of the L. Hugel track in magnificent beech forest – but no sign of the Scrub-Tit. We left at midday, – very well satisfied with our night 'camping' and the memories of the wallabies – begging food in the tent at breakfast and 'mum' scratching when I put a biscuit in her pouch for Joey.

The drive down to Queenstown was taken slowly and was interesting. The bush was v. [very] thick and as the weather

[26 October 1955] steadily cleared we could see more of the peaks around us, Queenstown was dreadful – bare eroded hillsides. We found we could not go down to Strahan next day by railway as planned.

27th (Thursday) [October 1955] We left in the morning, again through interesting, very thick bush, but several excursions into did not reveal the Scrub-tit. Zeehan was as equally depressing as Queenstown – more so, perhaps as it was very much more deserted. We put our car on the train and instead of waiting that day in Zeehan and travelling north with it in the morning, we travelled on the 1.20 rail-coach to Burnie where we thought we would be happier than Zeehan! We went through extremely thick bush with deep gorges, eventually coming out onto cleared hillsides like Beech Forest, with the gullies not cleared. However it was 4½ hours of bush and we were very relieved to see the

[27th October 1955] sea and get into a comfortable hotel.

28th (Friday) A real day off. The morning

[October 1955] we simply sat on the front, reading in the sun. After lunch we returned to the writing-room at the hotel where I am writing this. But a rude awakening was near. When I went to check on the car I found, that, owing to a long weekend, the train was not on its usual schedule and the car would not be available before the morning! So after a consultation with Joan we decided she would stay on another night and come on in the morning and I would catch the 5.0 pm train. What I could have said about the fool at Zeehan! I took the train and arrived at Devonport at 6.30, had a meal at the hotel and spent an extremely pleasant evening with Mac and Mrs Mac, during which an undue amount of whisky was drunk – no birds except SILVER GULLS nesting on three islands, close offshore, which I noticed from the train.

29th (Saturday) [October 1955]

We were to have gone out to Wrights Island but the weather was too rough. But what was so unkind was that it teemed with rain almost all day. Joan arrived at 11.0 and we spent the whole day sitting in front of the fire. At 4.0 Mac and I went off in the car and he showed me where, on two previous years, the Masked Owl had nested. There was no sign today. On the way back I got a very good look at a pair of BROWN QUAIL which allowed me to approach to about 15 feet on the road!

In the evening Mac showed us some of his shades. It was very good indeed to make contact with the Macdonalds again and having their cheerful fare [guess] did help us to cope with the rain. But the weather was very unkind!

30th. (Sunday) [October 1955]

We left the hotel at 9.0. It had cleared up and really was a beautiful day of blue sky and white clouds. A good road, the sun behind us

[30th October 1955] and a strong following wind made
driving a pleasure, so that the 182
miles passed almost without notice. We
had morning tea at Entally House and
looked over it – a brilliant idea for
a local museum. But there were no
birds of note and we drew in to
Wrest Point at 3.0 pm.

It has been a good holiday.
The Camp-Out consisted of too few
orinthologists and too many odd-bods – which
is understandable enough with a Tasmanian
camp in ideal country and hotel accommodation
The country we liked – Port Arthur, Coles Bay
and L. [Lake] St. [Saint] Claire. Queenstown & Zeehan
were interesting – but once only. The
latter part of the holiday was dogged a
bit by bad weather and change of plans
but not too seriously. The Forty-spotted
Pardalote was the prize of the trip, and the
sight of multitudinous Mutton Birds – the
most memorable – altogether 78 species
for the trip.

[FOLD OUT – MAP]

[Photo]

A.G.B. CLAUDE AUSTIN

MAX BILL MIDDLETON PETER ROSS

12.11.55 – Grampians.

11th November 1955. Set off with Bill Middleton after lunch and arrived at Cavendish 5.0pm, where we met Max McGarvie, Claude Austin and his brother-in-law, Peter Ross. After refuelling the cars and ourselves we went north up the Henty Highway till we got to the road off to the right (i.e. east) which continues over the range through the Chimneypot Gap to the Victoria Valley. We camped a few miles in on this road and had a short scout round. At 9.0, as we were turning in a light rain fell.

12th November. [1955] After breakfast we did a more thorough exploration of the area round the camp which was quite flat and with not much undergrowth. Birds seen were the RAINBOW LORIKEET, with a call very like a noisy miner, WEEBILLS, SPOTTED PARDALOTE with nest in rotten tree, BUTCHER-BIRD (first record for the area), BLACK-CAPPED SITELLA, BOOBOOK in a wild cherry, WHITE-BROWED BABBLER, five EMUS and a MISTLE-TOE BIRD.

[12th November 1955] We then went on by car, just the other side of the Gap – There were not many birds in the heathland there, but in a gully we had a good hearing of the MOUNTAIN THRUSH'S song.

We had lunch at the turn-off from the Gap road to the access road to the weirs – PHOTO p. 144. We went on to the 'Second Weir' where we came across the SATIN FLYCATCHER. In a gully across the road my car stuck and considerable man power was used to get it out. We found there was no through road (it was blocked by swamp) to the first weir so we camped as close as we could. We put up a SNIPE in the swamp.

November 13th. [1955] We made an early start at 5.30, walking on up the road to the first weir, flushing a NATIVE THRUSH from its nest by the path. After a rest at the weir we went on to 'Eagle Falls', left our lunch and proceeded on up to

[November 13th 1955] the east in gradually climbing, very rough country. We got well up to a spur and were disappointed to find that even then we were not looking down on the Victoria Valley for there was yet another spur beyond us. However we did see a pair of Hylacola which we all felt sure were CAUTA. Back to the Falls for lunch and then back to the Minnow Pool where there were YELLOW-TUFTED HONEYEATERS.

Then back to the cars at the camp and retracing our steps to the Gap Road near the junction of which we flushed a QUAIL-THRUSH – another first record for the district. From there home. And it was a long trek home – over 150 miles and I consider myself very lucky I stayed awake. I passed the turning in Mortlake and backed into a tree in the street – non compis mentis. But I think it was the best small camp out I have been on.

December 6th 1955 – After immunising the Colac
Shire I came leisurely back from
Gerangamete where I heard a SATIN
FLYCATCHER (where Bill Middleton had found
one) and found a RUFOUS WHISTLER at
Yeo [Yeodene]. Then I went on past Warrowie
Station , where I saw GULL-BILLED TERNS.
to Beeac. Near Mingawalla I disturbed
a PEREGRINE FALCON at nest in a sugar-gum
plantation. On the lakes by Beeac there
were very large numbers of GREY TEAL
December ~~JANUAR~~ and a few AVOCETS.
~~Y~~ 31st 1955. I had noticed Gull-billed
Terns carrying food from the region of
L. [Lake] Airey W. N.W. when on a visit to Kath
and Hans Noble On the trip past
Warrowie (see above) I thought I could see
where they might be nesting – a long low
island running NS [North South] a hundred yards or
so from the western slope of Thurrumbong.
On this day, about 4.0 pm, we had
Bob and staying with us, and,
feeling as if we wanted some exercise, I

[December 31st 1955] suggested we go out to the island. So with Mike and Johnny, we took the car down to the lake's edge and waded out.

We were well rewarded. SWANS and SILVER GULLS were nesting and were at all stages – from eggs to young. About 50 nests of GULL-BILLED TERNS were found and a CASPIAN TERN'S nest with two eggs. This latter was a real find – being the first inland record of nesting I can find.

[photo]
GULL-BILLED TERN – NEST & EGGS
L. [Lake] Thurrumbong 31.12.55

[b&w photograph of chick and egg on ground]

[caption] GULL-BILLED [b&w photograph of chicks on ground]
TERNS
nests at L. [Lake]
Thurrumbong
31.12.56 [/caption]

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N.B. Otway Campout 9-11.12.55 in next volume

[COVER]

[colour illustration]

[caption]

J. Gould & H. C. Richter, del et lith. *No. 5 of a series of British Birds*

THE CROSSBILL – Loxia c. curvirostra.

The two counties where this bird is most frequently found are Norfolk and Suffolk. It makes its home among coniferous woods, especially Scots pines. It arrives in England during the winter and stays throughout the spring and summer to nest. The Crossbill is an early breeder, eggs being laid usually in late February or beginning of March. Its tameness will allow a close approach, but it is so well concealed by the thick pine branches that it is not easily seen. The Crossbill's name is, of course, taken from the odd feature of its crossed beak. – *Eric Hosking.*

[/caption]